SUNDAY MAGAZINE

The bare-bones facts on why French women stay slim despite the cheeses, baguette and wine, and why Japanese women live up to 100.

NEWS / A6

'I'm in, I'm in to win,' says Hillary Clinton, baring bid to enter race in 2008 and become first woman president of the United States

LIFESTYLE / E1

When Giving is good business: Bench's 'Wear Your Conscience' campaign shows philanthrophy is infectious

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Sundance Film Festival taps Auraeus Solito of 'Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros' fame to be first Filipino as speaker. 'Oliveros' is also the first Filipino film to be nominated for next month's Independent Spirit Awards.

Lee Aguinaldo, Mr. Cool of RP art, is dead; 73

By Lito B. Zulueta

LEE AGUINALDO, AN IMPORTANT PIONEER OF the Philippine abstract movement whose austere works influenced younger generations of artists but who spent his waning years as a recluse, was buried yesterday at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Aguinaldo died of a heart attack at 2 a.m. on

LEE/A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, January 21, 2007 ★★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 44 P18 website: inquirer.net

'War of the Roses' rages in Brooklyn, NY

NEW YORK—THIS COUPLE gave up on marriage but refuse to give up the house.

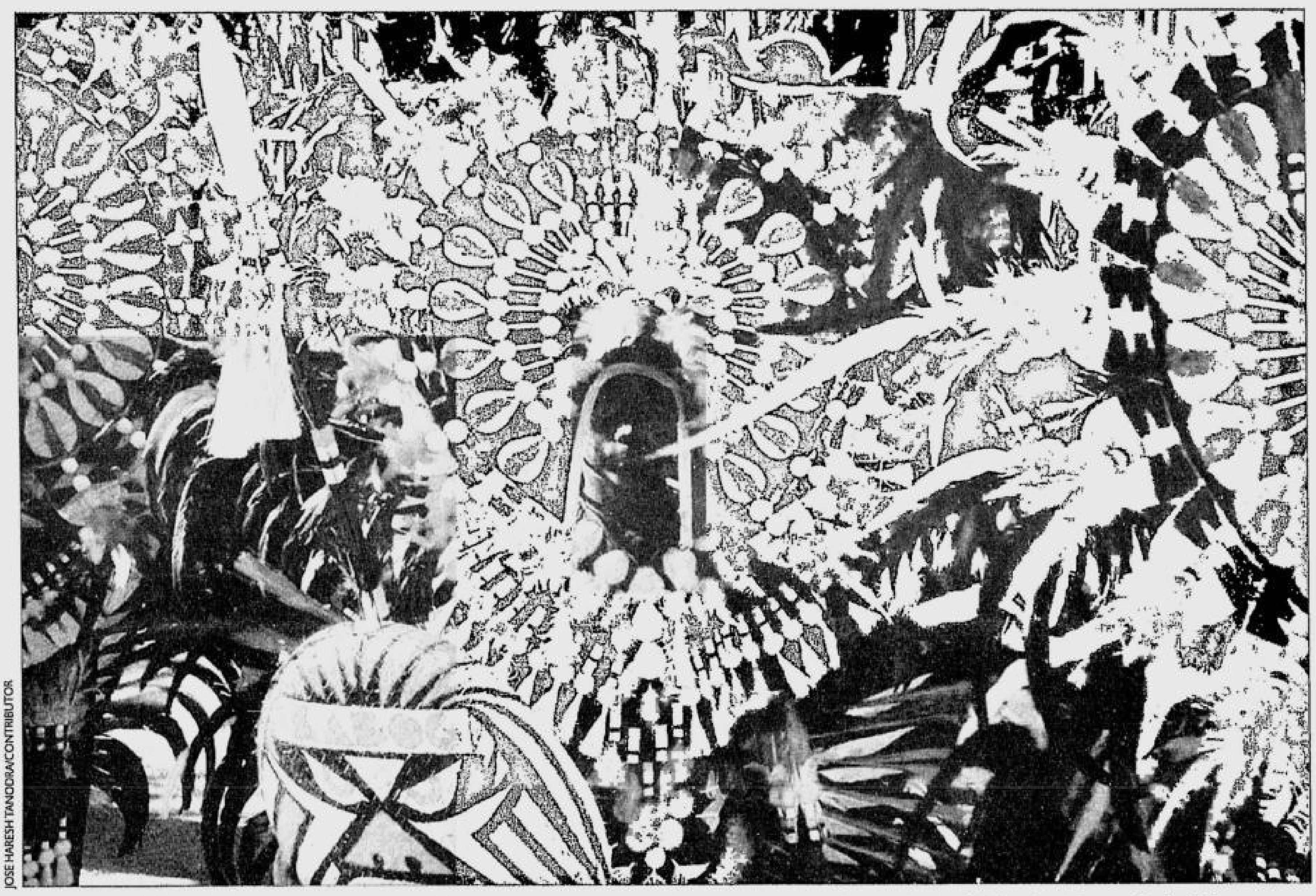
Like two Cold War adversaries, Chana and Simon Taub are separated by a wall built down the middle of their home to keep

WAR/A10

PAMBIHIRANG DIVORCE, AYAW HUMIWALAY SA BAHAY!

Janjalani confirmed dead

US DNA test of brother's saliva 'conclusive and complete'



JOSE HARESH TANDORA/CONTRIBUTOR

795 YEARS OF ATI-ATIHAN: The feast held every 3rd Sunday of January in Kalibo, Aklan, celebrates peace between Atis and Malays from Borneo. In the 16th century upon the arrival of Spanish colonizers, the Sto. Niño was superimposed into the natives' festivities so that today the Ati-atihan has evolved into a blend of Catholic rituals, hedonistic abandon and local color embellishments. Which explains why "black" people dance wildly in the streets chanting "Puera pasma! Hala bira! Viva Santo Nino!"

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE ERA OF THE JANjalani brothers in the annals of Philippine terrorism has come to an end. It was the saliva of one of the brothers that did it.

"We hit the jackpot, there was a match in the DNA," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said yesterday, confirming the death of Khaddafy Janjalani, the boyish-looking chieftain of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and dubbed Southeast Asia's most wanted man.

"We are sure it is Janjalani," Esperon said shortly after receiving a faxed report of what he called a conclusive DNA test carried out by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The test compared samples taken from remains found buried in the jungles of Jolo on Dec. 27 with samples taken from Janjalani's imprisoned brother, Hector.

The samples matched, Esperon said.

The results of the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) test—a process of identifying individuals through their genetic characteristics—confirmed an INQUIRER story last Dec. 28, which said that Marines had dug up the remains of a man believed to be that of the elusive Abu Sayyaf leader, on whose head the United States had put up a bounty of $5 million.

The US Embassy, which also confirmed the results of the DNA test, said American

JANJALANI/ A8

Mama always cooked 'tinola' for her 'bunso'

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

DEAD AT 33, KHADAFFY JANJALANI carved a notorious image as the leader or "emir" of the Abu Sayyaf.

But one woman—his mother—would forever remember him as the young, skinny boy who always asked her to cook *tinola*, his favorite dish.

Vilma Montaño Janjalani, a native of Miagao, Iloilo, married a Tausug farmer and landowner named Abubakar Jan-

MAMA/ A9

END OF THE ROAD for mama's boy: File photo of Janjalani posing at his hideout in the Basilan jungles in 2000. His only way out, he said then was death as a martyr.

INQUIRER PHOTO

WHAT'S INSIDE

Leviste slips out of the Makati Medical Center where he had been confined since confessing to shooting his long-time confidant Rafael de las Alas on Jan.12. What about his delicate, hypertensive and heart condition? He's getting death threats, says his lawyer.

NEWS / A5

9 plunder, graft cases vs GMA ally Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson have been pending at the Ombudsman, including one for more than P500 million. And to think Iloilo Gov. Tupas was suspended over an alleged P85,000 deal. Is Lady Justice winking thru her blindfold?

NEWS / A2

In Baguio, it's cool to speak Korean as Koreans dominate the city's consumer market.

NEWS / A6

SPECIAL PEOPLE

Don't blame it all on the genes

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

i-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

THE FIRST ASIAN AUTISM CONFERENCE was held in Hong Kong last year, and my husband and I were among the parents who flew in from all over the region to listen to experts talk about new ways of helping our children with autism, even healing them completely in some cases.

We came with fully expectant hearts even though our son is now 20 years old, no longer a child in age but very much so in wisdom.

If love could have slain this beast that is autism, we would have made minced meat out of it early on, but in the face of the enormous challenge of raising our son, we have learned that love, no matter how heroic in proportion, is not enough.

So over the years, we attended conferences across America and read a lot of books. We paid a cast of characters that included doctors, therapists and special educators to check our boy's hearing, coax the words out of him, equip him with social graces and teach him the 3 Rs. We networked with other parents and followed every lead. We prayed and asked others for prayers. And yet, and yet—we have not found the door through to our Gabriel's mystifying world.

Doctors have told us that what causes autism is not yet known. As with most illnesses that cannot be explained, they said it had to be in the DNA. Our son was just born that way. Even more heartbreaking was their verdict that autism was a life sentence: There is no cure.

Not true, said the specialists from leading hospitals and universities in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia who presented at the Hong Kong conference the most recent studies on the biomedical causes of autism and the hope that, in the early stage of regressive autism, recovery is possible.

"There's too much focus on the behavioral in Asia," said Daryl Tang, who is affiliated with the Autism Parent Network of HK. He is right. The diag-

DON'T/ A10

Teachers load up on patience and love

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—BACK IN college, Agnes Batul says the education curriculum did not include units in teaching children with disabilities (CWDs).

Autism, in particular, was not discussed, she says.

She had some idea of the hard tasks ahead when she was hired to take over the Special Education (SpEd) class at the Dau Central School in Mabalacat, Pampanga, in 1988.

The SpEd teacher had resigned and the principal asked her to pitch in. She did, against the advice of her parents who preferred that she take an assignment instead in a barrio school.

Batul plunged head on into the work, taking in Stanley Sawit II as the first autistic child in the class.

"I lacked the formal training and used the lesson plans of the resigned teacher. I loaded up on patience and understanding," she says.

It was only in 1996, on a scholarship grant from the Department of Education, that she got a formal education on teaching CWDs, including autistic children.

"So I combined experience and formal training," Batul says of her learning process.

Her work, she says, went beyond her students.

"I involved the parents. I taught them how to teach hygiene, reading, writing, counting, social activities, values," she says.

Punishment, she notes, was never part of her approach and warns parents against using it.

Currently, she has 34 CWDs, aged 6 to 28, in the class. Nineteen are boys, the rest are girls. Seven or eight children take turns attending the four

TEACHERS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH 01/20/07

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
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Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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No cover-up in Iloilo probe, vow cops

By Norman Bordadora

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police Director General Oscar Calderon yesterday vowed there would be no whitewash in its internal investigation of the alleged excessive force that members of the Regional Mobile Group used when they assaulted the Iloilo provincial capitol on Wednesday.

"Those who are liable will be given the corresponding penalty," he said.

Calderon confirmed that members of the assault team that barged into the capitol to remove a defiant Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas, who was ordered dismissed by the Ombudsman, were now restricted to camp pending investigation by the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"But that is only to make them immediately available when they are needed in the investigation," Calderon told the INQUIRER.

The PNP has admitted to excesses in the operation.

The PNP chief said the relief of the officers who oversaw the operation was an option pending the results of the internal probe "but that will depend on the recommendation of the investigating team."

No whitewash

"(CIDG chief Chief Supt. Edgardo) Doromal arrived there (on Friday) so it is still premature to talk about sanctions because the investigation has just started. (The public can) rest assured, there will be no whitewash," Calderon said.

Calderon said he was personally looking into the allegations of police brutality against the assault team that sought to take Tupas out of the provincial capitol.

Members of the assault team were caught on video breaking glass panels to get into the capitol and pointing their rifles at unarmed civilians holed up inside.

Interior Undersecretary for Local Governance Wencelito Andanar yesterday said that based on the rules of engagement of the PNP, the police are not allowed to point their guns at unarmed civilians.

Andanar told the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo forum in Quezon City that part of the PNP investigation of the alleged police brutality would be the police' own video footage.

He, however, defended the assault team for carrying high-powered firearms, citing intelligence reports that Tupas' supporters were armed.

But Tupas has dismissed allegations there were armed men inside the provincial capitol aside from the security guards during the standoff.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez claimed that a provincial jail warden in Iloilo allegedly released several inmates and armed them to help stop the ouster of Tupas.

In an interview, Gonzalez said he had already ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to look into reports that Col. Juan Mabugat had released some prisoners, armed them and ordered them to join the Tupas sympathizers inside the capitol.

Tupas protege

He described Mabugat as a "protege" of Tupas.

As this developed, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has reinstated Tupas and provincial board members Cecilia Capadosa and Domingo Oso Jr. after the Court of Appeals in Cebu issued a 60-day temporary restraining order suspending their dismissal.

The DILG also ordered Iloilo Vice Gov. Roberto Armada, who was earlier installed as governor, to relinquish the post to Tupas.

The Commission on Human Rights had condemned the pointing of M-16 rifles by policemen at unarmed civilians as shown on television footages and pictures.

But the DOJ chief scored the CHR for condemning Wednesday's armed assault on the Iloilo provincial capitol only on the basis of television footage of the incident.

Prejudged the incident

In a two-page letter to CHR chair Purificacion Valera-Quisumbing, Gonzalez criticized the CHR for prejudging the incident.

"I sincerely hope that you do not prejudge the incident on the basis of what you had seen on television. I regret to say that your comments, which compared the Tupas incident with the situation in Iraq, are an obvious prejudgment against the police. I believe this is uncalled for," Gonzalez said in his letter.

Gonzalez said he would welcome any investigation that may be called by the CHR. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum in Manila, David Israel Sinay and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*

WHAT- DID- EGGIE-TELL-LETTY CONTEST

And the winners receive their prizes at the INQUIRER headquarters on Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. The first prize went to Ed Dames who received P50,000 in cash and P200,000 worth of gifts from Western Appliance. Second prize went to Joel Arcenas, P100,000 worth of goods from Western Appliance. From left are Dave O.Valdez, INQUIRER executive vice president; Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, editor in chief; Ed Dames, Joel Arcenas; INQUIRER founding chair Eggie Duran-Apostol, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and Dennis Leung, INQUIRER product manager, marketing division. The third prize winner, Imelda Nicolas, was out of the country at the time of the awarding of prizes. She will receive P50,000 worth of gifts from Western Appliance.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Chavit still faces raps, says gov't lawyer

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN HAS IN ITS dockets at least nine criminal and administrative complaints against Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, according to a letter from the Special Prosecutor to the Senate.

They include two administrative cases for graft and a criminal complaint of plunder, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio wrote in a letter he sent last December to Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the Senate finance committee.

Villa-Ignacio wrote the letter, dated Dec. 19, 2006, to comply with a request from opposition Sen. Jinggoy Estrada during deliberations on the Ombudsman's budget for the antigraft agency to furnish the Senate with a status report on Singson's cases before it.

It was Singson's explosive revelations that led to the impeachment and popular uprising that unseated President Joseph Estrada, the father of the senator. Singson, then a known crony of the senior Estrada, blew the whistle on the ex-President's alleged links with illegal gambling and bribe-taking. He was the government's main witness in the plunder trial of the deposed President.

The letter was furnished to the INQUIRER by lawyer Estelita Cordero, leader of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance Foundation, a group that is opposed to Singson. Cordero is herself a complainant in some of the cases against the Ilocos Sur governor.

According to the Villa-Ignacio letter, three cases against Singson—one for plunder and two for graft cases—were dismissed by former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio in 2002. But there are pending motions for consideration from the complainants on all three cases.

Sisa, the group that Cordero leads, and Estrada partisans accused the Ombudsman of acting on the Singson cases with deliberate slowness.

"The Ombudsman must look into these cases with eyes covered like Lady Justice. Let the sword fall without fear or favor on whoever has to answer for the wanton abuse and misuse of the people's money," Cordero said.

The plunder charge against Singson was filed in December 2001 for unliquidated cash advances amounting to P596 million. The case was dismissed by Gervacio in 2002.

A complaint for graft for the allegedly overpriced purchase of a P26-million lot by the Ilocos Sur government in Santa town was dismissed by Desierto, also in 2002.

Gervacio also dismissed a graft case in connection with the alleged ghost purchase of a backhoe worth P9.5 million.

"How much was the amount involved in [Iloilo Gov. Niel] Tupas' case? P20,000? P65,000? All these cases against the dismissed officials pale in comparison with the cases against Chavit Singson," Cordero said.

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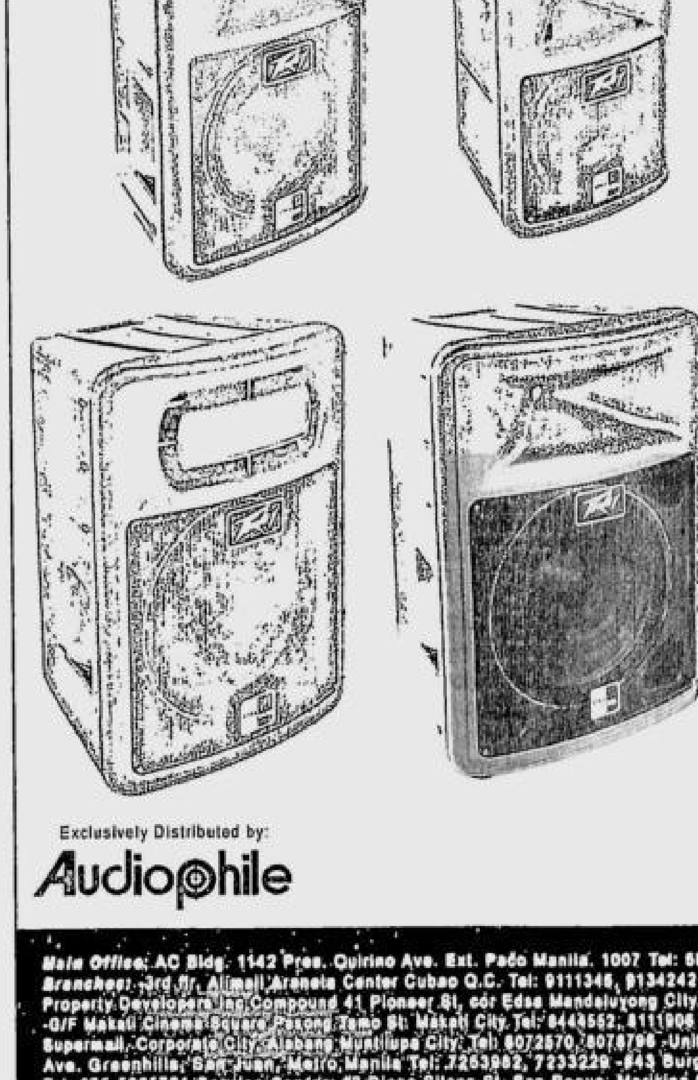

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More costly to live in Metro, says gov't body

By Jerome Aning

LIVING IN METRO MANILA IS GETTING more expensive.

According to the National Wages and Productivity Commission, a family of six, with two members working, will need P768 each per day to survive in Metro Manila as of December 2006.

This was about 11 percent higher than the P690 wage needed to live in the National Capital Region a year ago.

Of the amount, expenses for food was estimated at P205, another P494 for "nonfood" expenditures ranging from rent to recreation, and the rest, computed at 10 percent of the total expenses, going to savings.

NWPC defines living wage as "the amount of family income needed to provide for the family's food and non-food expenditures with sufficient allowance for savings/ investments for social security so as to enable the family to live and maintain a decent standard of human existence beyond mere subsistence level, taking into account all of the family's physiological, social and other needs."

The NWPC said the P350 minimum wage that has prevailed since July 2006 for nonagricultural workers in Metro Manila was actually only worth P245.61, after being adjusted for inflation.

The rising cost of living has prompted labor groups to demand a P125-across-the-board legislated wage hike.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which has the lowest minimum wage at only P200, a family of six will need P1,008 to survive daily. Worse, the nominal P200 basic pay, when adjusted for inflation, translates to a real wage of only P136.71.

NWPC executive director Esther Guirao said the living wage was only one of the 10 factors that regional wage boards consider in deciding whether or not to increase workers' basic pay or cost-of-living allowances.

"Living wage includes money spent for recreation and even vices, which employers should not be made to pay for," Guirao said at a press briefing.

But Guirao said the wage boards were not inclined to raise wages because of the absence of any "supervening event" such as drastic increases in fuel prices or the plunging in value of the peso.

She explained that the boards last raised wages in the middle of 2006 and were barred by law from issuing another increase until July-August this year.

Meanwhile, the militant group Kilusang Mayo Uno appealed to incumbent lawmakers to finalize the legislated wage hike bill before Congress' session ends this month with the onset of the election campaign season.

"We challenge all 23 senators to decide based on their conscience and give affirmative votes for the legislated wage hike bill," KMU executive vice president Lito Ustarez said. "They owe this to their constituents."

The House of Representatives has passed House Bill No. 345 granting a P125-a-day across-the-board wage increase over three years, but the Senate is still hearing Senate Bill No. 2030 seeking a one-time P100-a-day wage increase.

Ustarez said KMU would be closely watching how the Senate would vote on the wage bill.

Anti-Red leader in Samar shot dead

TACLOBAN CITY—A leader of an anticommunist movement in Catbalogan, Samar, was shot dead on Wednesday by an unidentified assailant.

Senior Supt. Asdali Abah, Samar provincial police director, identified the victim as Augusto Daclitan, provincial coordinator of the Alliance of Nationalism and Democracy (Anad).

Abah said Daclitan, 55, was shot in the head and in the back with a .45-cal. pistol and died on the spot.

Two men were involved in the shooting which happened at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in front of the provincial capitol, police said. The assailants reportedly fled on foot.

Abah said Daclitan was waiting for a friend in front of the provincial capitol when the two suspects approached him and shot him.

Witnesses brought the remains of the victim to a funeral parlor.

According to Abah, the police had yet to establish a motive for the shooting although they said it might have been related to Daclitan's involvement with Anad. *Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

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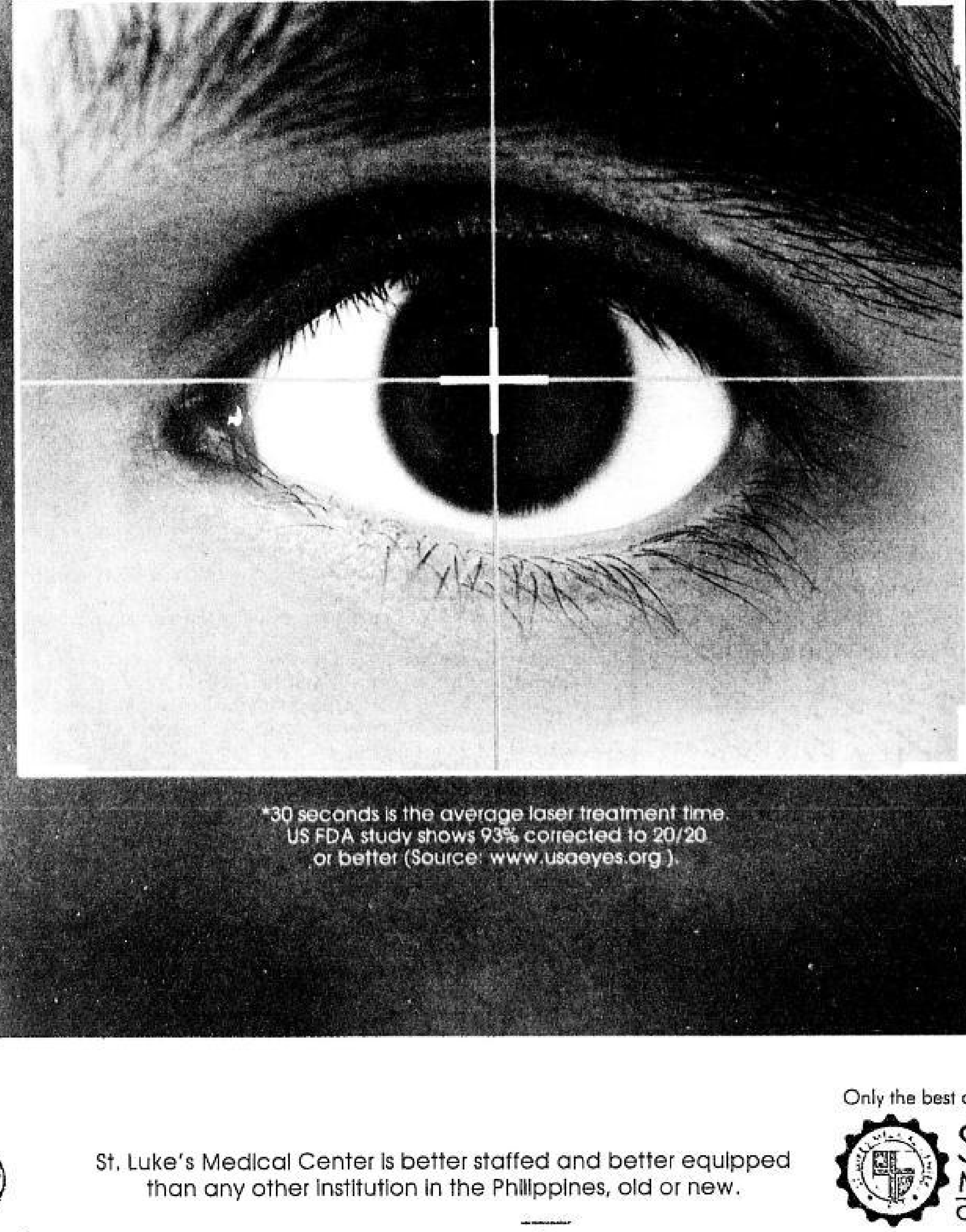

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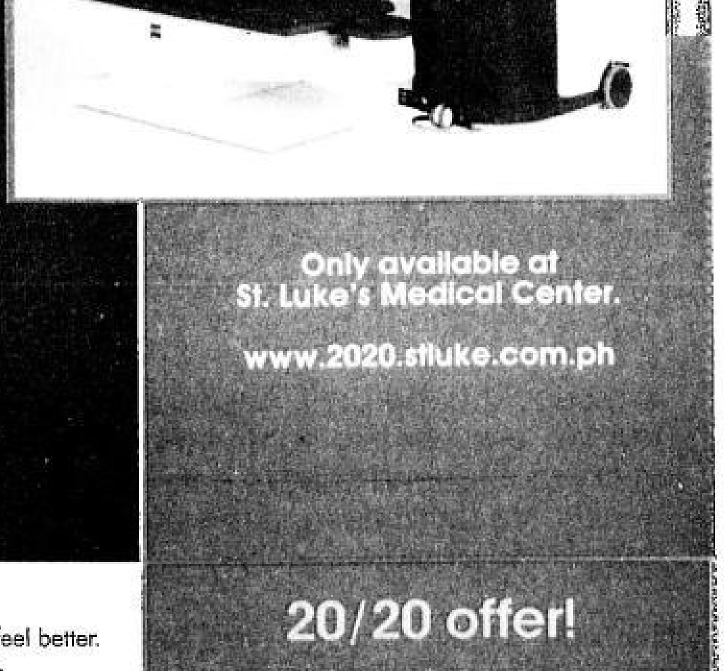

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Don't touch coco levy funds, militants warn gov't

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MILITANT GROUPS YESTERDAY STRONGly opposed the plan of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to allow the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) to use the accumulated dividends, now estimated to be worth P1.9 billion, from its 27 percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

"Don't you dare touch the coco levy funds!" Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said in a statement.

Mariano, principal author of House Bill No. 3728 calling for the establishment of a small coconut farmers trust fund, warned they would hold the PCGG, CIIF, the Solicitor General and President Macapagal-Arroyo accountable once they touched the money.

"It is as we feared. Because there is hardly anything left to plunder, the Macapagal-Arroyo administration is now training its sights on the coco levy fund to bankroll the campaigns of its candidates. If this pushes through, then it will be worse than the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, for which up to now nobody has been punished," Willy Marbella, internal deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said in a separate statement.

The P1.9-billion SMC dividends are part of the various assets acquired with funds from the coconut levy that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos imposed on coconut farmers from 1973 to 1982.

The CIIF, a group of 14 holding companies owned by six oil mills that held the numerous assets—including the SMC shares—acquired by Marcos and his cronies with the use of the coco levy funds, was sequestered by the PCGG in 1986.

Bad precedent

The PCGG recently approved a resolution allowing the CIIF to use the accumulated SMC dividends without stating specifically where the funds were to be used.

Mariano said the PCGG move would set a "bad precedent."

"This would lay the ground for the Arroyo government's plan to steal the whole coco levy funds," he said. "First, the dividends. What's next?" he said.

Mariano suspected that the PCGG proposal was the product of a series of negotiations between Malacañang and SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco to strike a deal on the coconut levy funds.

The KMP also vowed not to allow anyone to touch the coco levy funds, now estimated to be worth P130 billion, especially during the election period.

Marbella recalled that last year, they asked the PCGG to use the funds for the rehabilitation of typhoon-devastated areas—particularly Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Southern Tagalog—which are coconut-producing regions.

Undisclosed purposes

"But our call fell on deaf ears. Now they are hurrying to use the money for undisclosed purposes, again Malacañang is up to something fishy," said the peasant leader.

PCGG Commissioner Narciso Nario had said the funds would be used in accordance with the various presidential decrees that created the CIIF but refused to say specifically how and where the funds would be used.

In 2001, the Supreme Court ruled that the coco levy funds were prima facie public funds, meaning they belonged to the farmers who had contributed to them.

Corrections

IN THE JAN. 19 issue, an Entertainment story on Page F1 -"What the cameras did not catch at the 64th Golden Globe Awards"—misstated the surname of the husband of Hollywood actress Maggie Gyllenhaal. The actress' husband is actor Peter Sarsgaard—not Gyllenhaal.

In the same issue, a caption in the "Without Batting an Eyelash" column of Maurice Arcache on Page E2 misstated the company headed by Aniceto Sobrepeña. Sobrepeña is president of Metrobank Foundation Inc.—not Metrobank (Metropolitan Bank and Trust).

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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AN OPEN LETTER

To the mothers who have lost their newborn babies to neonatal sepsis at the Rizal Medical Center on September of 2006:

There is no truth to the claim that the Department of Health (DOH) blamed the mothers for the unfortunate deaths of their babies during the sepsis outbreak at Rizal Medical Center in September last year.

Above all, I sympathize with your grief and see the premature deaths of your babies as a great loss of our nation.

The preliminary investigation results of the Fact-Finding Committee and the National Epidemiology Center of the Department of Health are not yet final. Neither did the findings clear any of those involved in the tragedy. In fact, we have instituted sanctions as truthful and necessary, replaced high-ranking officials at the Rizal Medical Center and implemented remedial measures to ensure the safety and welfare of all patients in the said hospital.

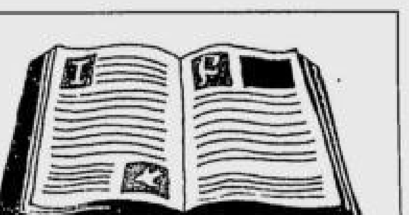
Let me assure you that the DOH is determined to pursue the investigation in order to arrive at the TRUTH. And we shall always be transparent, fair and accountable to all parties in this case and the greater Filipino public.

We cannot bring back nor replace the precious lives of your children. But we are equally committed to defend and safeguard the right of every mother and child to safe delivery and childbirth, especially in our healthcare facilities, and therefore prevent the same tragedy from ever happening again.

I appeal to all the aggrieved parents to come out and participate in the ongoing full-blown investigation being conducted by the Department of Health. Alone, we cannot remedy the case. But together, we can bring correct justice.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, January 21, 2007
Feast of Sto. Niño
St. Agnes

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

A child is born to us, a son is given us.

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. A light has dawned on those who live in the land of the shadow of death.

You have enlarged the nation; you have increased their joy. They rejoice before you, as people rejoice at harvest time as they rejoice in dividing the spoil.

For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors, you have broken it as on the day of Midian.

Every warrior's boot that tramped in war, every cloak rolled in blood, will be thrown out for burning, will serve as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; the royal ornament is laid upon his shoulder, and his name is proclaimed: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

To the increase of his powerful rule in peace, there will be no end.

Vast will be his dominion, he will reign on David's throne and over all his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forever.

The zealous love of Yahweh Sabaoth will do this.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

We are chosen in Christ.

Blessed be God, the Father of Christ Jesus our Lord, who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing. God chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and without sin in his presence.

From eternity he destined us in love to be his sons and daughters through Christ Jesus, thus fulfilling his free and generous will.

This goal suited him: That his loving-kindness which he granted us in his Beloved might finally receive all glory and praise.

I have been told of your faith and your affection towards all the believers, so I always give thanks to God, remembering you in my prayers.

May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of Glory, reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom, that you may know him.

May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God.

May you know how great is the inheritance, the glory, God sets apart for his saints.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (or Mark 10:13-16 or Luke 2:41-52)

Busy with the Father's business.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

See that you do not despised any of these little ones, for I tell you: their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father.

Commentary

This child is light in darkness; joy as at harvest time; freedom from poverty, misery and bondage; the end of war and violence. He is peace forever; his dominion is vast and established on justice. And we are the sons and daughters of the Father of Jesus, chosen with Jesus since the creation of the world to be holy and to live in his presence.

Mt: We are to be the children who are greatest before God by serving as the least among our brothers and sisters, in imitation of Jesus, his beloved child who was lowly and the servant of all. With the gentleness of God in Jesus we are to receive the children: the least of the world, the forgotten, the poor, and those without power.

Mk: We are to be children like this one who blesses the world with light, joy, and freedom—this is what we are to become like, in imitation and in following the One who is peace and who brings justice forever for those most in need.

Lk: We must be the children of God, about our Father's business first, knowing the Father and worshipping with Jesus. We must be subject to those around us, obedient but also faithful to God, first and foremost. And we must ponder all these words and works of Jesus so that we might become the children of light, the peacemakers of God.

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GMA: Pinoys enjoying boom, they just don't know it

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FILIPINOS ARE EXPERIENCING the benefits of the country's economic boom, they just don't know it yet, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a televised forum that she anchored at Malacañang yesterday, the President delivered a rebuttal to her critics who had belittled reports of the country's improving economic situation, saying it had a minimal impact on the masses as shown by surveys that Filipinos considered themselves poor.

The President has been criticized for predicting that 2007 will be a boom year for the economy, and for boasting about the rising peso and stock market and falling interest rates.

Ms Arroyo, an economics professor for many years, said the economic gains could be felt in the low prices of basic goods and services as the strong peso had helped offset the surge in oil prices.

She said there was a consumer boom in the country, as seen from the surging property market which has hit a 25-year high and the shopping-mall construction activity, with SM putting up five new malls and rival Robinsons erecting four this year.

Ms Arroyo pointed out that at 4.3 percent, the inflation rate—which tracks the movement of prices of basic items and services—was at its lowest in three years.

She said this was largely because of the beneficial impact of the strong peso that was in turn brought about by the stream of dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers and foreign investors whose interest had been piqued and boosted in the Philippines.

"2007 will be a boom year," she declared, citing a National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) forecast that the Philippines could hit its 2010 goal of 7.1-percent growth this year.

Noting how her predecessor, deposed President Joseph Estrada, has been crowing about the 5-percent growth during his short-lived term in billboards all over the capital, she said the economy has grown by 5 percent annually under her 5-year-old watch.

But Ms Arroyo said the country needed to sustain a minimum 7-percent growth rate for more than a couple of years more in order to achieve its goal of becoming a First World country.

"We are rising above the specter of the past. We are crossing the threshold to an era of confidence and hope. The momentum is ours, we must keep and drive it forward with our solidarity and hard work, building peace and reconciliation along the way in every nook and cranny of this great land," she said.

The President said her main focus this year was to ensure that the masses got the "social payback" by continuing to spread the wealth brought about by the economic gains.

Ms Arroyo repeated her triumphal theme in a statement issued yesterday, the sixth anniversary of the people's uprising that brought her to power.

"My thought for today on this Edsa Dos anniversary is the satisfaction of having done what I could for the good of the nation. The past has carried heavy trials but great triumphs for the people. I am but an instrument of their most ardent aspirations," she said.

Leviste given bail, leaves hospital

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. ANTONIO LEViste, charged in the killing of a trusted aide, left the Makati Medical Center yesterday after a week of being confined due to a heart ailment.

Leviste's family decided to take him out of the hospital after he was freed on bail the other day because of threats to his life, said lawyer Henry Capela.

A family member has reportedly been receiving menacing warnings on the telephone, Capela told the INQUIRER over the phone yesterday.

"So instead of waiting for something to happen, we had to move him out as soon as possible," he said.

Citing security reasons, he declined to disclose where Leviste was transferred.

Capela said the ex-governor and estranged husband of former Sen. Loren Legarda remained under the close supervision of his doctors and had to avoid situations that would excite or agitate him because his blood pressure was still erratic.

Leviste was confined in the private hospital since Jan. 12, the day he confessed to shooting his close associate Rafael de las Alas, inside his office on the ninth floor of the LPL Towers on Legaspi Street in Makati City. Leviste claimed it was self-defense.

Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati Regional Trial Court ordered his release on Friday after Leviste's lawyers posted a cash bail of P40,000 for the charge of homicide.

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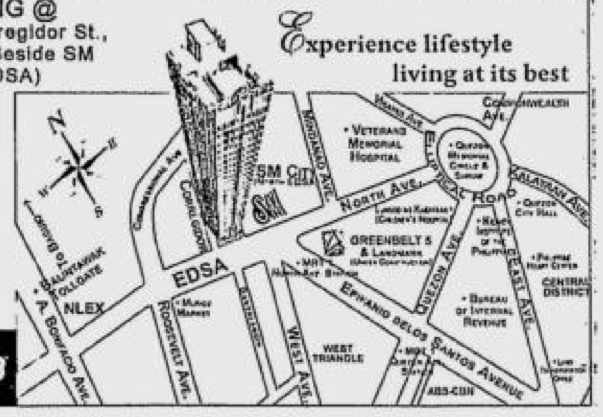

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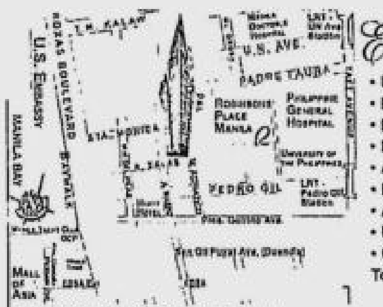

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Hillary Clinton announces White House bid in 2008

NEW YORK—DEMOCRATIC SEN. Hillary Clinton on Saturday took the first step toward a 2008 White House bid that could make her the first woman president of the United States, she announced on her website.

"I'm in. And I'm in to win," Clinton, a former first lady now representing New York in the US Senate, said in a video on her site.

Clinton's announcement, coming days after Sen. Barack Obama shook up the 2008 race with his bid to become the first black to occupy the White House, establishes the most diverse political field.

Clinton is considered the front-runner, with Obama and 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards top contenders. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who would be the first Hispanic, intends to announce his plans on Sunday.

"Today I am announcing that I will form an exploratory committee to run for president," said Clinton, 59.

"The stakes will be high when America chooses a new president in 2008.

"As a senator, I will spend two years doing everything in my power to limit the damage George W. Bush can do. But only a new president will be able to undo Bush's mistakes and restore our hope and optimism," said Clinton.

"Only a new president can renew the promise of America — the idea that if you work hard, you can count on the health care, education and retirement security that you need to raise your family. These are the basic values of America that are under attack from this administration every day."

With millions in the bank, a vast network of supporters and top status in nearly every poll of Democratic contenders, Clinton has launched the most viable effort by a female candidate to capture the White House.

She is the first presidential spouse to pursue the office. Her husband, Bill, served two terms in the White House from 1993-2001.

The announcement was the latest step in a remarkable political and personal journey for the Clinton — from Arkansas attorney to first lady to New York senator to front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

A polarizing figure since she burst onto the national scene during her husband's first presidential campaign, Clinton engenders strong opinions among voters, who either revere or revile her but rarely are ambivalent.

She often is compared to her husband and found lacking in his natural charisma. Others have criticized her for being overly cautious and calculating when so many voters say they crave authenticity.

Many Democrats, eager to reclaim the White House after eight years of President George W. Bush, fret that she carries too much baggage from her husband's scandal-plagued presidency to win a general election.

Among many voters, she is best known for her disastrous attempt in 1993 to overhaul America's health care system and for standing by her husband after his marital infidelity.

Clinton's allies counter by citing her strengths — intelligence, depth of experience, work ethic and immense command of policy detail. Advisers argue those skills, plus her popularity among women and younger voters, position her strongly as both a primary and general election candidate.

In her first run for the Senate from New York in 2000—a state where she had never lived and where she was branded a carpetbagger by many—Clinton won a landslide victory.

AFP; AP

MEOWWRR!!!
Making like a cat, President Macapagal-Arroyo is happy that overseas Filipino workers have started to invest in the Philippine stock market and in local real estate ventures. During her televised roundtable discussion in the Kalayaan press briefing room of Malacañang yesterday, she discussed the fruits of the recent Asean summit. LYN RILLON

Learn all about Koreans so as not to cause offense, Baguio folk urged

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY GOVERNment has been encouraging residents and local businesses to learn the Korean language now that Koreans have become a dominant consumer force here.

But while some hotels and restaurants have made the effort, tourism officials here said they should learn the Korean culture as well because some of their attempts at reaching out to their Korean customers only had the effect of offending them.

Several restaurants and cafes around downtown Baguio display promotional banners written in the Korean language to draw in Korean customers.

Their waiters are encouraged to learn the basics of the language to enable them to interact with the customers.

But at least two of these establishments have torn down their signs because they were written in red ink.

"Koreans only write names in red when they refer to the dead," said Purificacion Molintas, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism.

Molintas said Korean volunteers had been helping the city government guide Baguio business establishments in this study-Korea campaign to avoid causing offense or embarrassment on either side.

Koreans started coming to the city in large numbers in 2005, mainly to study English. They now make up the largest foreign community in Baguio, Molintas said.

At least 2,000 Koreans now live in Baguio, according to the Bureau of Immigration. Large groups arrive and stay for three months to take crash courses in English, said Antonio Prieto, the Baguio immigration officer.

Molintas said Korean travel agencies had also started marketing the city to their citizens, extolling Baguio's climate and history. The city was built as a hill station in 1909 by American colonial government officials anxious to escape the summer in the lowlands.

Prieto said many Korean youths, who studied here after completing mandatory military service in South Korea, had plans of migrating to the United States.

"They come to learn the accent and American customs which they believe they can find in the Philippines, particularly in Baguio," he said.

Buoyed by the city's popularity with Koreans, many cities in that country have asked Baguio to establish sisterhood ties, Molintas said.

But she said the city government had yet to respond because it had to review a policy that restricts the summer capital to only one sister city for in every country.

Baguio has diplomatic and trade ties with Taebaek, South Korea.

Molintas started the trend for Korean language and culture lessons here when she designed a weeklong seminar for hotels. She said the city government was studying how businesses were applying what they had learned.

"It is important for [businesses] to understand why [Koreans] are here and why they stay. Unlike Europeans, these are Asians with similar customs, so we cannot engage [their interest] by offering what Europeans consider as exotic like being open and cheerful," Molintas said.

"Koreans are clannish, so they rarely mingle with locals. And they are disturbed when they address Filipinos and get ambiguous responses. They mean what they say when they declare 'yes' or 'no,' and they often do not understand when Filipinos say 'maybe,'" she said.

And this could end up with the Koreans coming across as being arrogant and distant to Filipinos, "which is why these cultural lessons must also be taught to incoming Koreans," Molintas said.

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Albay oil spill reportedly contained with firm's help

BUNKER FUEL SPILLING OUT OF A CARGO ship that ran aground in Tabaco, Albay, on Wednesday has been contained so far by booms rushed to the site, according to the Philippine Coast Guard.

The booms, supplied by Lafayette Philippines, ring one side of the MV Accord, laden with 58,000 sacks of rice, around which the oil had collected. The leak was plugged when the hole was covered after the ship settled on the sea bottom.

Commander Nelson Torre, Coast Guard station head, said he had asked the shipping company to siphon out the remaining bunker fuel first before unloading the rice—but this would float the ship but allow more fuel to leak out, it was pointed out.

"A sister ship is already in the area but rough seas and shallow waters kept them from siphoning the oil. We are doing what we can to protect the waters and the nearby fishing villages of Malinao and Tiwi," Torre said.

He said Lafayette's quick response was critical in containing the fuel that had leaked from the ship.

"We just called them (Lafayette officials) and they immediately sent their booms," the Coast Guard officer said.

Lafayette was involved in the antimining controversy the past years in Rapu Rapu, Albay, which adversely affected the local population and their fishing livelihood.

Bayani Agabin, Lafayette spokesperson, however, said the company was always ready to help."

Late last year, Lafayette, he said, was among the first to help the residents affected by Typhoons "Milenyo" and "Reming" and was overall coordinator for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-led rescue effort.

The government requires mining companies to have the proper equipment and personnel trained to cope with disasters.

Ople Foundation to hold job fair

THE BLAS F. OPLE POLICY CENTER AND Training Institute, a nonstock nonprofit foundation established in honor of the late senator and foreign secretary will hold a one-day job fair on Feb. 2 at the Central Plaza of Market! Market! mall at Fort Bonifacio.

The job fair will bring under one roof local and overseas job applicants, employment agencies, and local and foreign employers.

The job fair, to be held on the eve of what would have been Ople's 80th birthday, aims to increase awareness of Ople's role in reshaping the country's labor and employment sectors and perpetuating his deeds and contributions to national development, as well as enlist support and generate funds for the Blas F. Ople Journalism Scholarship Program administered by the Ople Policy Center and Training Institute and Samahang Plaridel.

The center is working closely with the Department of Labor and Employment-National Capital Region, Public Employment Service Office-Taguig, and the Taguig City government to disseminate information and promote wider public participation in the job fair organized by Susan Ople, president of the Ople Policy Center.

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REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES:
JANUARY 21-23, 2007@ 9:00 AM-5:00PM
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AUCTION DATE: JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1, 2007, 10:30 AM
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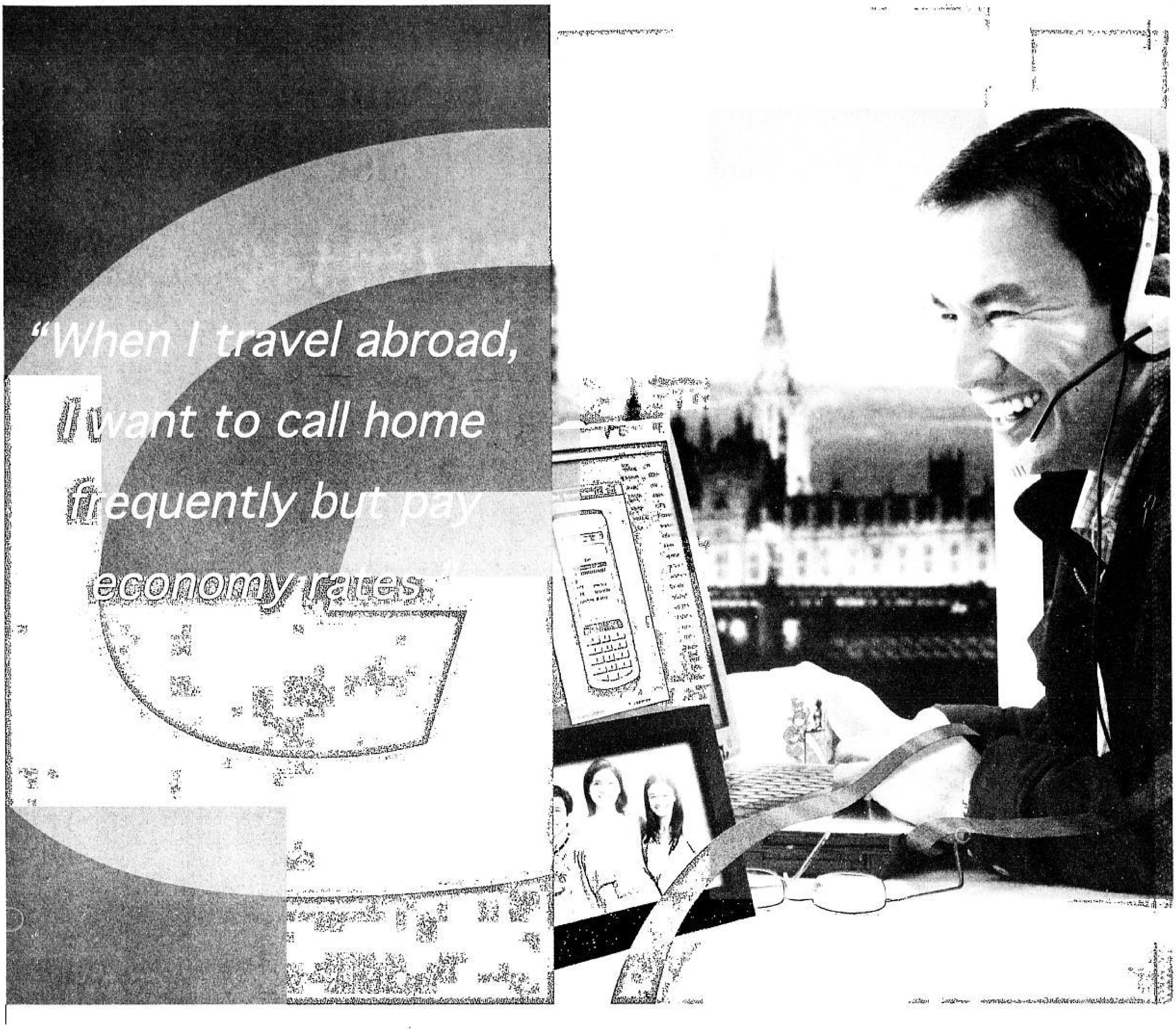
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Janjalani death confirmed; DNA test conclusive

From page A1

and Philippine authorities had yet to determine what would become of the $5 million reward.

"It is not yet decided whether a person, many people, or no one" would receive the bounty, embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said in a phone interview.

Samples of saliva

Esperon did not specify what specific samples were taken for the test but INQUIRER sources at the New Bilibid Prisons earlier said that Hector gave samples of his saliva.

Janjalani, 33, followed in the way of his elder brother Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani, who was killed in a clash with Philippine security forces in 1998.

Hector is serving a life term for kidnapping.

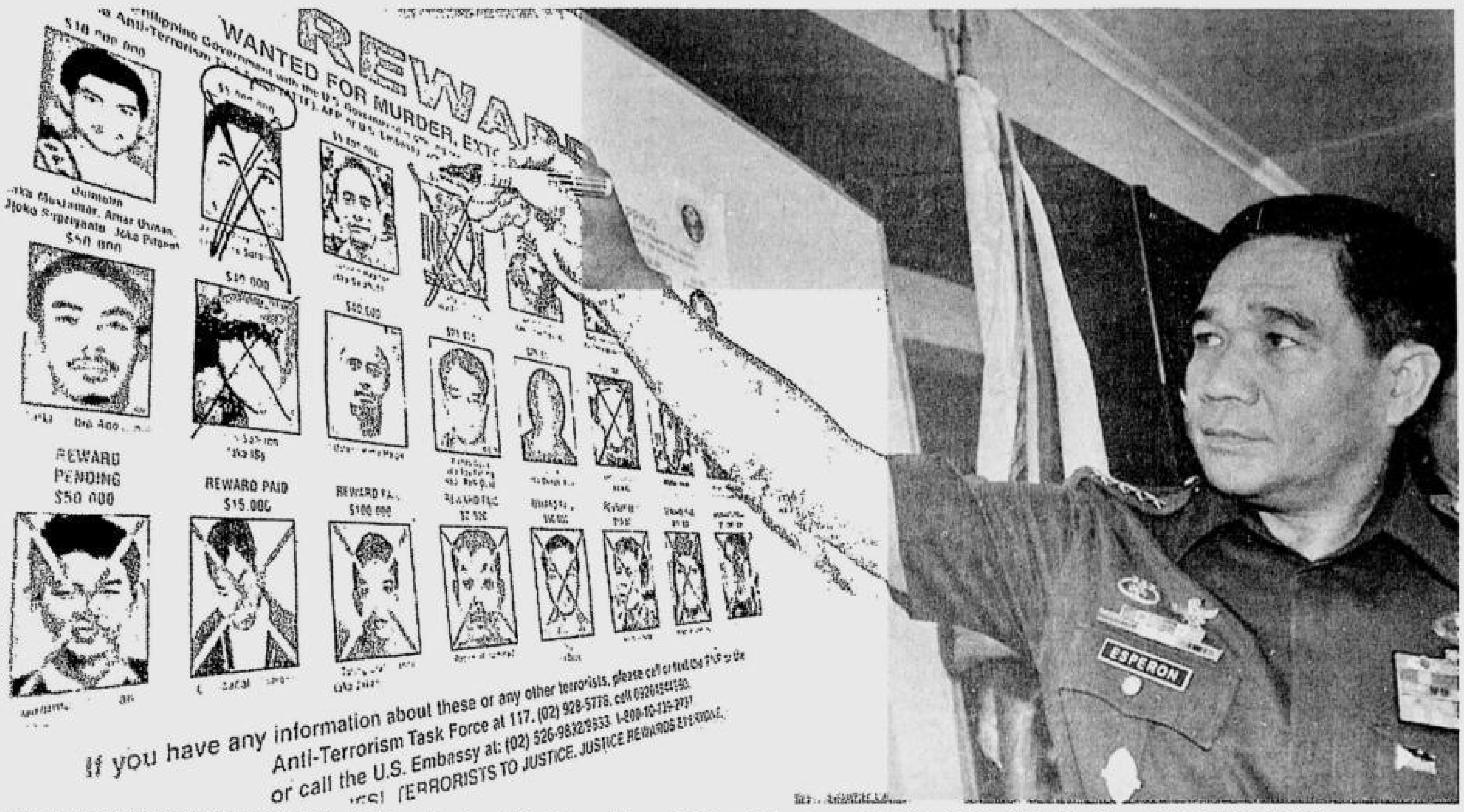
"The Armed Forces of the Philippines is proud to announce that we have neutralized the center of gravity of terrorism in the Philippines," Esperon, flanked by the top brass, told a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

'Complete and conclusive'

Esperon said three forensic experts from the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory flew to the United States to witness the test.

The military did not release copies of the report, and only showed reporters a one paragraph extract.

"Executive summary on 19 January 2007, FBI laboratories positively matched DNA samples from the suspected remains of Abu Sayyaf Group leader Khaddafy Janjalani with the leader's brother, confirming Janjalani's death," it read.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AND THEN THERE WERE NONE. That is the objective of the Armed Forces' Oplan Ultimatum, which is to finish off the Abu Sayyaf. AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon makes a big show out of crossing out Janjalani's photo from the "Wanted" list during the press conference on Saturday when he officially announces the death of the Abu Sayyaf chieftain. The military is hunting down 10 more leaders.

JOAN BONDOC

Esperon said there would be no further tests.

"It's complete. It's conclusive," he said of the FBI report.

Esperon said the test established that the two DNA samples came from the same set of parents.

"Just be reassured that whatever should be established has been established, including maternal and paternal lines," he said.

Janjalani had been reported several times to have been killed in military operations. Each time he surfaced later in some jungle, belying military claims.

Palace promise

Malacañang greeted the news of the confirmation of Janjalani's death with a promise to double its efforts to bring the people of Southern Mindanao out of grinding poverty.

"More than ever, this administration is determined to eliminate the pockets of poverty in the area to deprive extremists of recruiting grounds for terrorism," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a text message.

Confirmation of Janjalani's death came five and a half months after the military launched "Oplan Ultimatum" in Sulu to finish off Abu Sayyaf leaders believed to have set up their operations base in the area.

The military has since deployed about 8,000 troops and intelligence operatives in the area, resulting in 38 clashes with the terrorist group since August.

Esperon said 67 rebels were confirmed killed in the encounters, including chief urban terrorist planner Abu Solaiman and seven other commanders. Twenty-three soldiers and one police officer died in the clashes.

Esperon vowed no letup in operations, saying troops would press their hunt for the rest of the Abu Sayyaf and the regional Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) group.

Manhunt on for 2 JI figures

Two JI figures, Dulmatin and Omar Patek, are among those still being hunted. They are alleged to be the masterminds of the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, which killed more than 200 people.

Esperon said the support of residents had been crucial to the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, linked by the United States to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The information that we have been getting (from them) was simply tremendous," he said.

"In return we promise we will clear Sulu of terrorists and we will not allow them to thrive in any part of the Philippines," Esperon stressed.

He also thanked the US Special Forces for providing "technical and service support" to the operations in Sulu.

Once captured, he escaped from a detention facility inside the Camp Crame police headquarters in 1995.

Esperon said the military was verifying the circumstances of Janjalani's death.

"There were a series of encounters on the first week of September but we are looking at the timeframe of Sept. 3 to 6 when Janjalani was wounded," he said.

Navy Chief Vice Adm. Rogelio Calunsag said Janjalani was most likely killed on Sept. 4 in a close-quarter battle between rebels and a Marine platoon led by 1Lt. Romulo Dimayuga.

Janjalani's grave

Calunsag said a captured rebel disclosed that Janjalani was seriously wounded in that encounter. Janjalani died from his wounds on Sept. 24, according to Calunsag.

Janjalani and Solaiman's death left two senior Abu Sayyaf leaders as possible successors: Radullan Sahiron and Isnilon Hapilon. Each has a $5 million reward on his head.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said Sahiron is the overall Abu Sayyaf commander in Sulu while Hapilon is the overall commander in Basilan.

In a statement, the US Embassy said the United States would continue to work with the Philippines' military, law enforcement, and national and local governments to bring terrorists to justice and build peace in Mindanao and throughout the Philippines.

"The death of Khaddafy Janjalani is an important and positive step forward in the ultimate goal of eliminating the ruthless and dangerous Abu Sayyaf Group, and in destroying its links with international terrorist groups such as the Jemaah Islamiyah," it stressed.

US not active in combat

Lussenhop maintained that US involvement in the Philippines antiterror war had been limited to training, technical assistance, and information-sharing, with "no active role in combat."

10 to go

Col. Mark Supnet, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade in Sulu, said the military would now be able to throw its full resources into the manhunt for the remaining terrorist leaders.

Of the five senior Abu Sayyaf leaders on the bounty list announced by Washington in 2002, four are already dead.

"There are about 10 of them who remain at large but we will get them soon," Supnet said.

Janjalani and his key commanders were linked to several deadly attacks, including a 2004 bombing that gutted a super ferry near Manila, killing 116 people, in one of Southeast Asia's worst terrorist strikes.

'Figure of 8'

At least a dozen hostages, including American Guillermo Sobero, were beheaded under Janjalani's leadership.

A Western security analyst said the recent successes against Abu Sayyaf appeared to have come about because troops had completed a "figure of 8" pincer movement in Jolo and had divided the militants into two groups and encircled them.

"They are now tightening the squeeze and the enemy is running out of places to go," he said. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao, PDI Research, AP and Reuters*

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Teachers load up on patience and love

From page A1

shifts that last two hours each. Nine of them are autistic, six have Down Syndrome and two have cerebral palsy. The rest are mentally retarded and slow learners.

"Teachers, parents and caregivers of CWDs need to give love, dedication and long-suffering patience," Batul says.

Parents, she says, deal with the problem by denying it. "They should be helped in getting to that stage of acceptance, else how can they properly help their own kids?"

The DepEd, she says, has developed a fairly good curriculum designed by SpEd teachers like her and specialists.

The curriculum includes disability detection and assessment skills, and lesson plans in psychomotor, cognitive behavior and speech training.

Picture exchange

In year 2000, the DepEd piloted the picture exchange communication system. In this, a child points to a picture that shows the action she prefers like playing, reading, going to the bathroom, etc.

"The goals are to help CWDs live as much as a normal child does, be sociable, independent and able to communicate," Batul says.

In Pangasinan, two centers in Dagupan City that cater to the needs of children suffering from autism, Down Syndrome and other physical and mental disabilities face a similar problem: How to make most of the children regularly attending the training sessions?

"This is especially true of those belonging to the poor families," says Joselito Narvasa, Special Education coordinator of the Stimulation and Therapeutic Activity Center (STAC), a city government-run institution for children with disability.

STAC takes care of 11 autistic children, between 3 and 10 years old. They are supposed to attend an hour-long session twice or thrice a day for occupational therapy and special education.

Although STAC offers its services for free, "absenteeism" among the children is high at 30 percent, Narvasa says. "The main reason is there is no fare money, especially among those who live in island villages," he says.

Another reason is that nobody could bring the child to the center, as the mother is busy taking care of her other children or with household chores.

The extra mile

But STAC is willing to go the extra mile to help the children. Narvasa says STAC plans to hold sessions in the city's villages this year.

"We will cluster children of similar needs in its service areas and the occupational therapist and SpEd teachers will go there, instead of the children going to the center," he says.

The children's inability to regularly attend sessions or to keep them coming at all, is also a problem faced by the Aces Therapy Center Foundation Inc., which offers services for children with special needs.

Parents' denial mode

Jeremaine Prieto, an occupational therapist at the foundation he established five years ago, says many parents of autistic children refuse to accept their condition.

"The children are referred to the center by medical doctors, so they come over. But some parents deny that their child is autistic, and their relatives would tell them that the child's development is merely delayed. So after one or two sessions, they drop out," he says.

The foundation has devised a "socialized payment scheme" so that even the poor can avail of the services.

"The fees range from P50 to P400 per one hour session, supposedly depending on the parents' capacity to pay. But we offer the lowest fee even to those who can afford to pay more just to keep the children coming," Prieto says.

He says the family plays a big role for the children's therapy and education.

Educate families

"At most, they spend three hours a week at the center. That is nothing compared to the time they spend at home with their families. Thus, it is important for us to educate the parents and family members [on the proper care of special children]," Prieto says.

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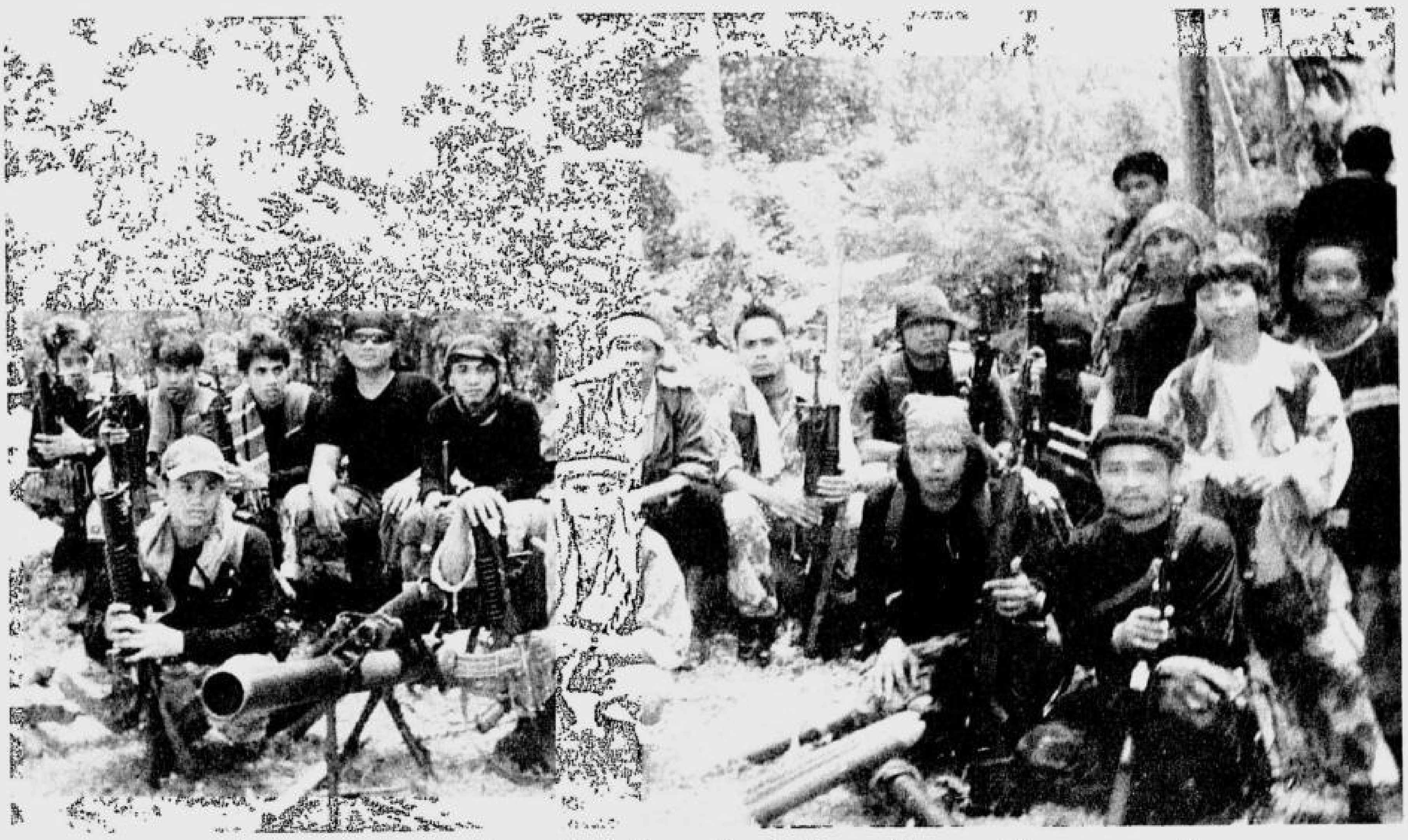

CLASS PICTURE

This was the first time Janjalani allowed his Abu Sayyaf group to be photographed after they fled Basilan in 2002 to hide out somewhere in Sulu province. Janjanlani is fifth from left, second row. Seated next to him is Abu Sabaya (in dark glasses), also dead. It's not known how many in this picture are still alive. INQUIRER PHOTO

Mama always cooked 'tinola' for her 'bunso'

From page A1

jalani. (She is related to Ramon Montaño, a retired general and former Constabulary chief, and who served as a presidential adviser during the Ramos administration, when the Abu Sayyaf first gained notoriety.)

Khadaffy addressed her as *"Ina* (mother)." She called him *"bunso* (youngest child)."

The notoriety arose from the kidnappings he led, the beheadings his men carried out, and the bomb attacks he claimed to have ordered in various parts of the country, including the SuperFerry 14 bombing on Feb. 27, 2004, where more than a hundred passengers perished.

Youngest of 6

He was the youngest in the brood—said to be composed of two daughters and three sons—and was seen by family members as the most fragile, the most endearing, the most promising, the most introverted, and the closest to his mother.

His elder brother Hector, who is doing time at the New Bilibid Prisons for kidnapping, once described him as reticent *("torpe")*, tongue-tied *("walang dila")*, and given to looking instead of speaking *("tingin lang nang tingin")*:

He was half-Tausug and half-Ilonggo but when he spoke, the Tausug in him took a back seat and the lilting Ilonggo tone took over.

He was born March 3, 1973. A short man at 5'4", he proved he was a fearsome leader through high-profile kidnappings and bombings. *(See banner story.)*

Mother's lament

In a conversation with this reporter in December 2004 at the family residence in Tabuk, Isabela City, Basilan, Vilma Janjalani lamented how her son's life had turned out: *"Ano na ang nangyari sa buhay ng bunso namin?"*

That morning, the mother of the most wanted man in the country was preparing a simple meal for herself and her husband, who was afflicted with severe asthma and rheumatism and was practically bedridden.

Her words were in reaction to Khadaffy's reported death in an air assault by MG-520 attack helicopters in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, a month earlier.

"Ina" said an emissary of the Abu Sayyaf had visited the family bearing gifts and words of consolation, without directly confirming her son's reported death.

The man said Khadaffy always had the family in mind. *"Dumating lang yung lalaking iyon na maraming regalo at kinuwentuhan kami na lagi kaming naaalala ni bunso,"* she said as she sat beside her ailing husband on a wooden bed on the ground floor of the two-story house.

She could not believe that the son she so loved and missed was being hunted by almost all the intelligence units and assets of the Philippine military, law enforcers, even mercenaries, because of the US government's offer of $5 million for his capture.

Normal life

Before he assumed the leadership of the Abu Sayyaf in 1999 following the killing in Lamitan, Basilan, of Ustadz Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani, its founding leader and his eldest brother, Khadaffy was well on the way to settling down to a normal life.

He had married his childhood sweetheart, Sherma, and embarked on a small business venture in seaweed farming.

But the normal life was not to be, as Khadaffy soon realized.

Abdurajak Janjalani was shot dead by a policeman, ending almost a decade of leading the group he had founded early in the 1990s. There appeared no option for Khadaffy but to take over because he was trained for the role.

In 1994, he was among the batch that trained in a camp reportedly maintained by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Sultan Kudarat. His training was focused on "explosives," earning him the code name "Specialist."

In Marawi City, he also pursued Islamic studies and learned to preach based on the teachings of the Koran.

Reluctant successor

If Khaddafy appeared as a reluctant successor to his brother, many commanders and leaders of the Abu Sayyaf in various provinces in Muslim Mindanao were as slow to acknowledge him as the new "Emir."

It was only the group of Radhulan Sahiron that readily did so.

Sahiron, a battle-tested commander and an original member of the Moro National Liberation Front (the main secessionist group until it signed a peace agreement with the Ramos administration), served as chief of staff of the Abu Sayyaf under Khadaffy's leadership.

Among those who initially resisted Khadaffy's leadership were Commander Nadzmi (or Global), Galib Andang (also known as Commander Robot) and Mujib Susukan—now all dead.

In an interview with this reporter in April 2000 during the Sipadan hostage crisis, Andang wondered how he and his colleagues could follow Khadaffy's orders when they were all longtime fighters and the upstart had yet to prove himself: *"Paano kami susunod sa kanya, eh mas matagal na kaming nakikipaglaban samantalang siya, wala pang napapatunayan?"*

The Sipadan hostage-taking was the handiwork of the Andang-Susukan tandem. Khaddafy was not a party to any of the negotiations for the release of the 21 mostly European hostages snatched from a diving resort in Sipadan, Malaysia.

It was Khadaffy who had earlier led the abduction of schoolchildren, teachers and Filipino priest Roel Gallardo. But it paled in comparison to the attention and the ransom generated by Andang and Susukan from the Sipadan hostage-taking.

Deadlier mission

When government troops pursued Khadaffy and his men in Puno Mahadji, Basilan, in 2000, the group was forced to flee to the island-province of Sulu and seek refuge in Patikul, a known bailiwick of Sahiron.

To prove his leadership, Khadaffy asserted his specialization. He abandoned kidnapping and focused on a deadlier mission—bombing and possible suicide missions.

There came a point when he would talk about the bomb attacks ostensibly pulled off by his group as though he were talking about scenes from a movie.

Describing to this reporter the attack on SuperFerry 14, he said the bomb used was "four times more powerful in range than a fire bomb."

No dent could be seen because they used an "incendiary bomb," he said. (Khadaffy's account appeared in an exclusive report in the INQUIRER in April 2004.)

At first, authorities refuted Khadaffy's claims. Later, local and Australian forensic experts confirmed that what had taken place in the interisland vessel was indeed a bomb explosion.

The only way

Vilma Janjalani said she had tried to convince her son to stop and give up. But such conversations apparently always ended in tears, tender gestures, and an assurance of forgiveness and understanding.

Khadaffy at one time told this reporter that unlike all others, his mother never sat in judgment of her *bunso*: *"Mabuti pa si Ina, hindi nanunumbat, hindi nanghuhusga. Anak pa rin ako kahit na ano pa ang nagawa ko at sabihin sa akin ng lahat nang tao."*

By his own account, there were stages in his life when he contemplated giving up. But he eventually contradicted his own suggestion of surrender.

Khadaffy said he knew that he had angered many people, including this reporter, and he wondered whether anyone would believe that he did not choose his life and that he was trapped in it: *"Alam mo, alam kong maraming galit sa akin. Pati ikaw, alam kong galit sa akin. Pero may maniniwala ba sa akin na hindi ko ginusto ito at hindi na ako makakaalis pa dito?"*

He said there was "only one way" for him: *"Shaheed,"* or death as a martyr.

"Mamamatay ako na lumalaban, hindi ako susuko (I will die fighting, I will not surrender)."

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WAILING WALL: An appeals judge approves a novel concept for a divorcing couple who refused to be divorced from a home they both love. A wall was built down the middle of their home to keep the bickering spouses from running into each other. Chana Taub (left) and Simon Taub in their house divided in Brooklyn, New York City. AP

'War of the Roses' rages in Brooklyn, New York

From page A1

the bickering spouses apart.

Neither one wanted to move out of their beloved Brooklyn house, and so—in one of the strangest divorce battles the city has ever seen—a white drywall partition was erected a few weeks ago on orders from a judge.

The divorce case, which has been staggering through the courts for nearly two years, has been dubbed Brooklyn's "War of the Roses," after the 1989 movie starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner as a battling couple.

Imelda Marcos of Brooklyn

Aside from the wall, the Taub version of the story has some other farcical elements: Chana says her husband of more than 20 years has bugged her phones. Simon says his wife owns too many shoes, some 300 pairs, which are trapped on his side.

Chana claims that is a lie Simon cooked up to make her look like the Imelda Marcos of the Orthodox Jewish community, a reference to the former first lady and her huge shoe collection.

"I am not interested in shoes," she says.

Simon retorts: "Maybe it was 299. I didn't count them."

It is not like the Taubs have no place else to go. For one thing, they own a place two doors down. But for reasons that include stubbornness, spite and their love of the home, both insist on staying in this particular house in Borough Park, a heavily Orthodox Jewish neighborhood.

"It's my house. And emotionally, in my age, I want to be in my house!" says Simon, 57, who was the one who requested the wall. He calls his wife a gold-digger who is after his money.

Setting boundaries

Chana, 57, who claims her husband abused her, says she has as much right to stay as he does, if not more. "I need a house to live in and money to live on!" she says. "I worked very hard, like a horse, like a slave for him."

In New York City, with its soaring real estate prices, it is not unusual for couples to fight over a house or refuse to move out during divorce proceedings. Judges sometimes ask couples to set boundaries, such as letting a spouse have access to the study during a certain part of the day.

But an actual wall? That is a new one, says Barry Berkman, a New York divorce lawyer.

The wall divides the living room from the staircase on the bottom floor of the Taubs' richly decorated, wood-paneled three-story house, whose market value has been put at $923,000 (P45 million) by the city.

He says, she says

She gets the top floor, where the bedrooms are situated, along with the kitchen on the second floor. He gets the living room on the first floor and the dining room on the second floor. So that they do not run into each other on the second floor, the door between the dining room and the kitchen is barricaded on both sides.

One of the couple's children is staying with dad; three others are staying with mom.

Chana says that for two decades she put up with physical and mental abuse that grew more severe over the years. She says she had to flush the toilet after him, and put on his socks and shoes for him. He became so violent by mid-2005 that she filed for divorce, she says.

Simon denies ever laying a hand on Chana, and says he gave her a luxurious lifestyle. But he says his sweater manufacturing company went bankrupt in the late 1990s, and he suffered a second heart attack in 2005 that only worsened their financial problems. He says she wants a divorce to squeeze what money he has left.

Novel concept

Chana says she does not want much from her husband, mainly just alimony, child support and a fair share of property.

In August 2005, a judge said Simon, whom Chana had forced out of the house, could move back in after building a wall. Chana appealed. An appeals court eventually allowed the wall, calling it a novel concept. The wall went up in December, and Simon moved back in.

Chana says that since Simon has returned, he has been monitoring her via video cameras. Simon says the surveillance goes both ways, and points to cameras on her side, though Chana claims she does not control those. Chana says Simon has bugged her phones. Simon says that is crazy—he does not care who she talks to.

Not ready to move on

Kimberly Flemke, a couples therapist in Philadelphia, says when spouses go so far as to refuse to leave a house while divorcing, it often means neither is ready to move on.

"It's clear that if they're going to go this length, there's still far too much connection," she says. "I would hope they'd both go to therapy." *AP*

Don't blam

From page A1

nosis of autism is often made by a psychologist and the interventions recommended are limited to behavior modification, sensory integration and special education.

Concerned that parents in the region had not been kept abreast of developments in the biomedical aspects of autism, the APN organized the conference and opened it to parents from all over Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

For some parents, this was the first time they had heard of the new name given their children's disorder. It is now referred to as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), to include attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at the beginning of the spectrum and autism at the other end, with Asperger's syndrome, high-functioning autism (HFA) and pervasive development disorder (PDD) in between. Quite possibly, it was suggested, that whatever was causing autism was also the culprit, in varying degrees, behind hyperactivity, learning disabilities and other developmental delays in children.

The HK conference highlighted the biomedical causes and their corresponding treatments, much of which resulted from the interest of and research by physicians who also had ASD in the family and were earnest to find a way to arrest its spread all over the world.

1,026 percent

Cover stories in leading American magazines have warned of nothing short of an epidemic. From 2001 to 2004, the incidence of ASD in the United States increased 1,026 percent among school age children, per the US Department of Education. No, that is not a typographical error. It is not just 100 percent, but 1,026 percent.

One out of 10,000 children is born with ASD. That is nothing when you consider the ratio for acquired ASD, which is 1:150. Out of 150 children who are healthy and normal at birth, one will regress in cognitive and emotional development and will be diagnosed with ASD.

What has happened that we now have more babies with ASD? It does not make sense to blame it all on their genes.

"Despite millions of dollars that have been poured into research, they have not found the one gene that causes autism so how can they say it's genetic?" said keynote speaker Dr. Jaquelyn McCandless.

An anti-aging specialist who returned to basic medicine after her granddaughter was diagnosed with ASD, McCandless briefed the HK audience on the experiences and studies earlier collected in her book "Children with Starving Brains," which is a definite must-read for anyone who has any relationship with a person with ASD, be it parental, pro-

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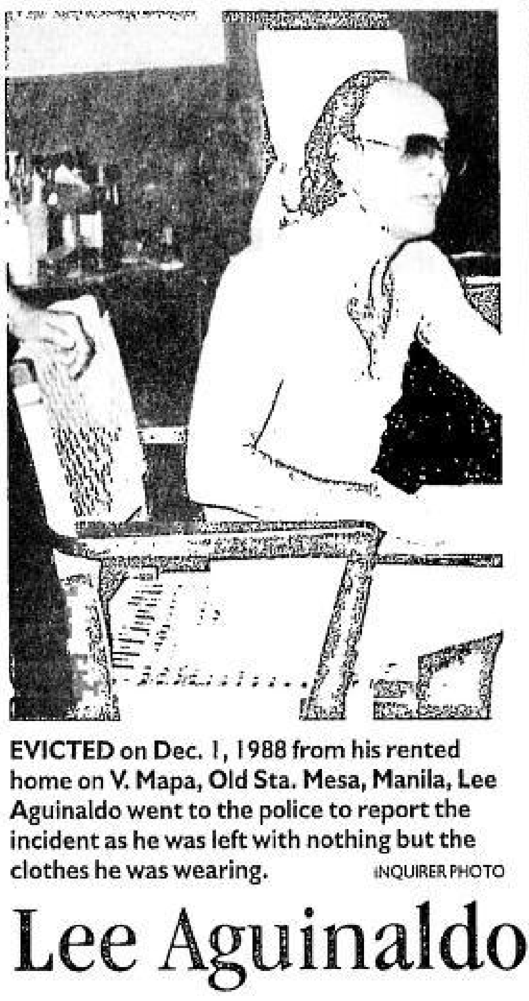
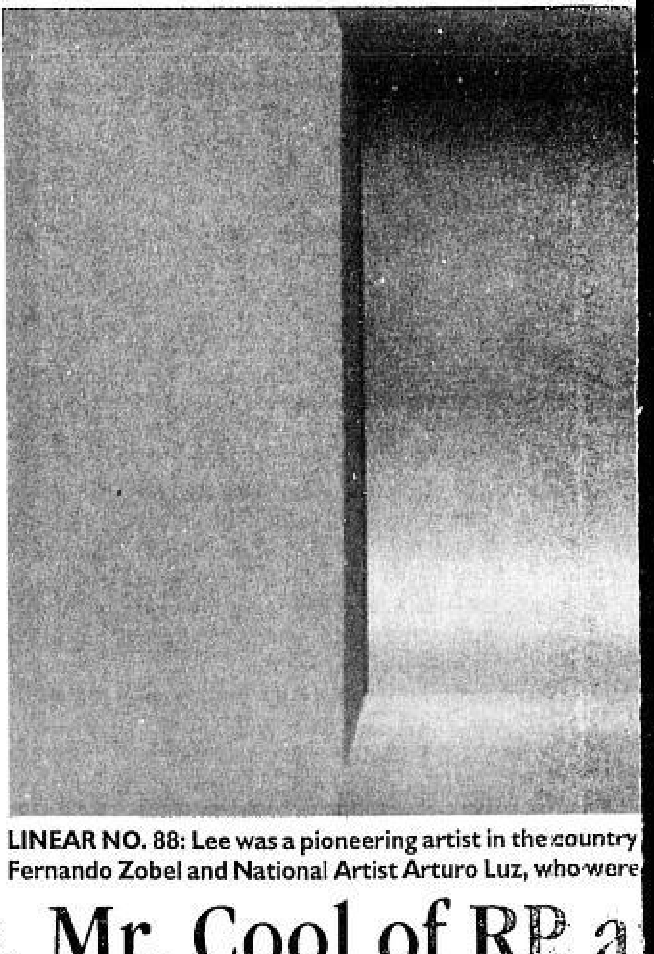


EVICTED on Dec. 1, 1988 from his rented home on V. Mapa, Old Sta. Mesa, Manila, Lee Aguinaldo went to the police to report the incident as he was left with nothing but the clothes he was wearing. INQUIRER PHOTO



LINEAR NO. 88: Lee was a pioneering artist in the country
Fernando Zobel and National Artist Arturo Luz, who were

Lee Aguinaldo, Mr. Cool of RP a

From page A1

Jan. 16. He was 73.

"His relevance to Philippine art is unmistakable," said Silvana Diaz, owner of Galleria Duemila, which organized Aguinaldo's recent shows. "He was among the first modernists. He was in the league of Fernando Zobel and National Artist Arturo Luz, who were his patrons."

Said artist-critic Cid Reyes: "In his heyday in the 1960s and '70s, LA was tops. He was Mr. Cool of Philippine art."

Born in New York on Sept. 5, 1933, the young Aguinaldo often visited the Metropolitan Museum, where he was exposed to the works of Titian and Rembrandt.

It is probable that in his growing-up years, he also imbibed the spirit of the New York School, or Abstract Expressionism, the postwar American art movement that sought to incorporate the element of chance and the unconscious in the work.

Jackson Pollock style

Coming to the Philippines, Aguinaldo took up commerce in college and never got formal art education. But he held his first exhibit in 1958, and his early works showed the influence of Jackson Pollock of the New York School.

The style of the New York School was, according to one critic, "action painting"—because the members worked in a style that evoked movement.

Pollock was in fact known for his drip paintings, in which he poured or splashed paint on the canvas, creating energetic patterns.

Like those of the abstract expressionists, Aguinaldo's works in general show artmaking in progress.

The works are "gestational" because they show the gestation of an artistic enterprise from conception to development. They are also "gestural" because they signal—through brushstrokes and lines—the process of composition.

Other than linear painting, Aguinaldo developed other styles such as the "flick" painting, in which he flicked paint from the palette knife onto the canvas, and "galumphing" (again an aesthetic approximation of "action"), in which he incorporated photog
might now be called photo

But Reyes said his
among Aguinaldo's work
those along the linear sty
was one of austere min
straction, like Zobel's wor
cient Japanese Zen callig

"Definitely the long-ru
ear' series," said Reyes
about his favorite Aguin
"Sleek and smooth! Eleg
minimalist mode!"

Among those whom Agu
fluenced were Reyes, Ben
Rodolfo Gan and Rodolfo

Defiance

Aguinaldo displayed
ings toward artistic and
success.

In 1979, when he showed
collages at the Cultural C
Philippines, the late critic
described the works as "
incorporating as they did p
of photographs that the arti
nessed" by soaking them in
applying a bit of brushwork o

Showing the artist's

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e it all on the genes; it may be in the diet

fessional or peripheral.

It's in the diet

McCandless is of the Defeat Autism Now! (DAN!) school of thought that suggests ASD is triggered by some things in the genes, the diet and the environment that can weaken the immune system, inflame the gut, impair the metabolism and cause abnormalities in the body, thereby affecting the child's brain. (DAN! is a group of parents, researchers and physicians first convened by the late Dr. Bernard Rimland in 1995 to brainstorm the biomedical aspects of ASD.)

A child may have genetic predisposition because of a father who is prone to allergies, or a mother who has a thyroid problem or has been exposed to mercury in, say, the amalgam for dental work. This family history of allergies and autoimmunity can make the child more vulnerable to infections (tonsillitis, ear infection, etc.) and gastrointestinal issues like food allergies, enzyme deficiency or fungal overgrowth—any and all of which can inhibit vital nutrients and vitamins from getting to the brain.

Of all the studies presented in HK, the one that drove closest to home for me was the food allergy issue.

Sometime after my son's diagnosis with ASD, I had read a book about how milk affected the behavior of children. It stopped me right in my tracks. Gabriel was drinking almost a gallon of fresh milk every day. Could the milk be causing his hyperactivity? Purely on mother's instinct, I gradually reduced his dairy intake and eventually stopped giving him milk. He started to calm down to the point where he could sit down and work with the speech therapist, the behavior therapist and the "psych" (Psychology) and "sped" (Special Education) majors who paraded in and out of our house to teach him.

No milk

After the HK conference, I am more convinced that whatever progress we have made with Gabriel, a large part is the result of eliminating milk from his diet.

This is not to say that mothers should not give their children milk. My other child loves milk and all dairy products and she is fine. But for some children, sensitivity to milk and and milk products affects their immune and nervous systems. Doctors have to give more credit to what we feed our bodies as serious determinants of our health. Nutrition should, in fact, be given more coverage at medical schools.

What is in milk and other dairy products that is harmful to some kids? For that matter, what is in wheat and other cereals that we have been feeding our kids? I had always thought it was the sugar. Well, sugar is not entirely blameless but, as it turned out, milk has a substance called casein while wheat has gluten. When not completely broken down, they produce harmful opioid peptides that, if mixed with stomach enzymes, could persist and leak out of the gastrointestinal tract into the blood.

While most of it will flow out in the urine among normal kids, some could enter the brain in the case of a child with metabolic and malabsorption problems. The bad things that opioids can do include disrupting communication of the brain with all main systems so that sensory perception (hearing, sight, taste, pain, etc.) is impaired.

Gluten-Free/Casein-Free

The effects of opioids in the brain is reportedly akin to the effects of taking opium. If Gabriel was addicted to milk, he must have felt a constant craving for it that he could not communicate because he was losing his words. Small wonder he was doing weird things.

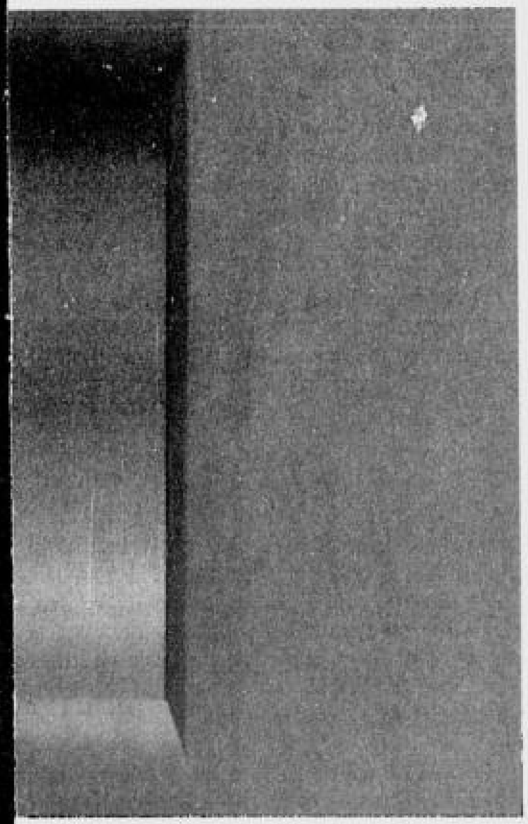
I had never heard of the Gluten-Free/Casein-Free diet until the HK conference, and how I wish now that we had known about it when my son was much younger. There is so much to write about the diet that I think will be helpful to parents, and I will do it in the coming weeks in the Lifestyle section. For now, if you're a parent, go and buy the books "Unraveling the Mystery of Autism" by Karyn Seroussi and "Special Diets for Special Kids" by Lisa Lewis.

None of the doctors whom we consulted bothered to check into what was going on inside my son's body, least of all in his gut.

All they did was look at his behavior and they came up with the diagnosis of ASD. Not one doctor looked into the possibility that these behaviors might have been out of pain or discomfort caused by some underlying medical condition.

If there are two things that parents should take with them from the HK conference, it should be, first, to put their ASD children on the GF/CF diet and, second, to ask questions of their pediatricians. Could my child have acid reflux? Does my child have colitis? Could my child have a food allergy? No one else will ask these questions on behalf of their children.

BENT on defeating autism by bio-medical means, Drs. Jaquelin McCandless, Jill James and Kenneth Bock answer questions from parents, doctors, therapists and special educators at the Asian Autism Conference held in HK in August last year.



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the art market, the 27 photocollages on exhibit were not for sale, except for editions of five of them, with 250 prints per edition, at P1.5 million—a very prohibitive price at that time.

"Perhaps the message of Lee Aguinaldo is that it is high time we chased the merchants away from the temple of art," Benesa said. "But who's listening to the prophet crying in the wilderness?"

Seclusion

Perhaps because he priced his work too prohibitively, as if he did not want to part with them or he did not want to sell his soul to the devil, Aguinaldo ran into debt.

An unfortunate addiction aggravated the state of his finances, so that he was evicted from the Madrigal residences on Roxas Boulevard in the early 1990s for failure to pay rent.

He accused the landlord of taking away his works.

But even after going into seclusion, Aguinaldo continued to work, close friends said, and remained a powerful presence in the art world.

His legacy to Philippine art is secure.

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OPINION

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Breathtaking

EDITORIAL

HOW NICE OF OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS Gutierrez to rediscover strength of resolve, on the eve of the election season. If only she had not undermined her office, yet again, in the process of rediscovery.

On Jan. 15, she directed Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to "immediately implement" all dismissal and suspension orders her office had already issued. The list of affected officials is lengthy, and altogether breathtaking. She ordered the following dismissed from public service: Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas and two provincial board members; Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and eight councilors; and Jaen, Nueva Ecija Mayor Antonio Esquivel. She also ordered the following suspended: Batangas Gov. Armando C. Sanchez and five provincial officials, together with two mayors from other provinces.

Include the preventive suspension of Cavite Gov. Erineo Maliksi, which Puno effected the same week, and we have, depending on one's point of view, either a Herculean effort to cleanse the Augean stables of Philippine politics, or wholesale, politically motivated slaughter.

We tend to the slaughter view, in part because of the alarming record of this particular Ombudsman, and in part because of the suspect timing. Even if evidence (and a Supreme Court exhortation) is staring her in the face, Gutierrez has the capacity—no, the genius—to disregard the obvious, if the officials involved (say certain election commissioners) are close to the administration. Now that the campaign period has started, we find she is not averse to using political considerations in deciding graft and corruption cases.

We think there are at least three things wrong with the Ombudsman's sudden zeal.

The orders trade cynically on public disgust over graft and corruption.

Substantial public support has always existed for any attempt to stamp out corruption or to hold public officials to account. The public knows that the so-called long arm of the law and the Ombudsman's anti-graft net have repeatedly failed to catch the proverbial big fish.

The Ombudsman's sudden haul of potential big fish seeks to satisfy public demand for clear, tough, unequivocal action.

The orders politicize the Ombudsman's office.

As many have already observed, the fact that some officials identified with the administration are included in the list does not disguise the sordid reality: Politics had entered into the picture.

Is it any coincidence, for example, that the governor of Iloilo happens to be a key supporter of Sen. Franklin Drilon, a critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo since July 2005? Is it merely an ironic twist of fate that the Nueva Ecija mayor ordered suspended is a political rival of Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, one of the President's staunchest allies in the House?

More to the point: Is it merely an accident of circumstance that the pending cases against Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, one of the most powerful officials in the entire government and a pillar of Arroyo rule, remain, well, pending?

Not least, the dismissals and suspensions prize power over process, force over reason.

The storming of the Iloilo capitol, by elite policemen bearing high-powered firearms, presents us a vivid image of official power run amok. But even if there were no acts of violence involved in any of the dismissals or suspensions, the fact remains: The orders were the latest act of an administration that does things simply because it can.

The transfer of convicted rapist Daniel Smith, in the middle of the night and without a court order; the imposition of the so-called calibrated preemptive response, to clamp down on street protests; the manipulation of the constitutional provision on people's initiative; the pronouncements of a justice secretary goading administration critics to join the communist insurgency: The litany of acts this administration has committed simply because it can is truly dolorous.

There was no attempt to lay the predicate for the orders; no transparent attempt to provide the accused with the privileges of due process. The result: Suspect decisions.

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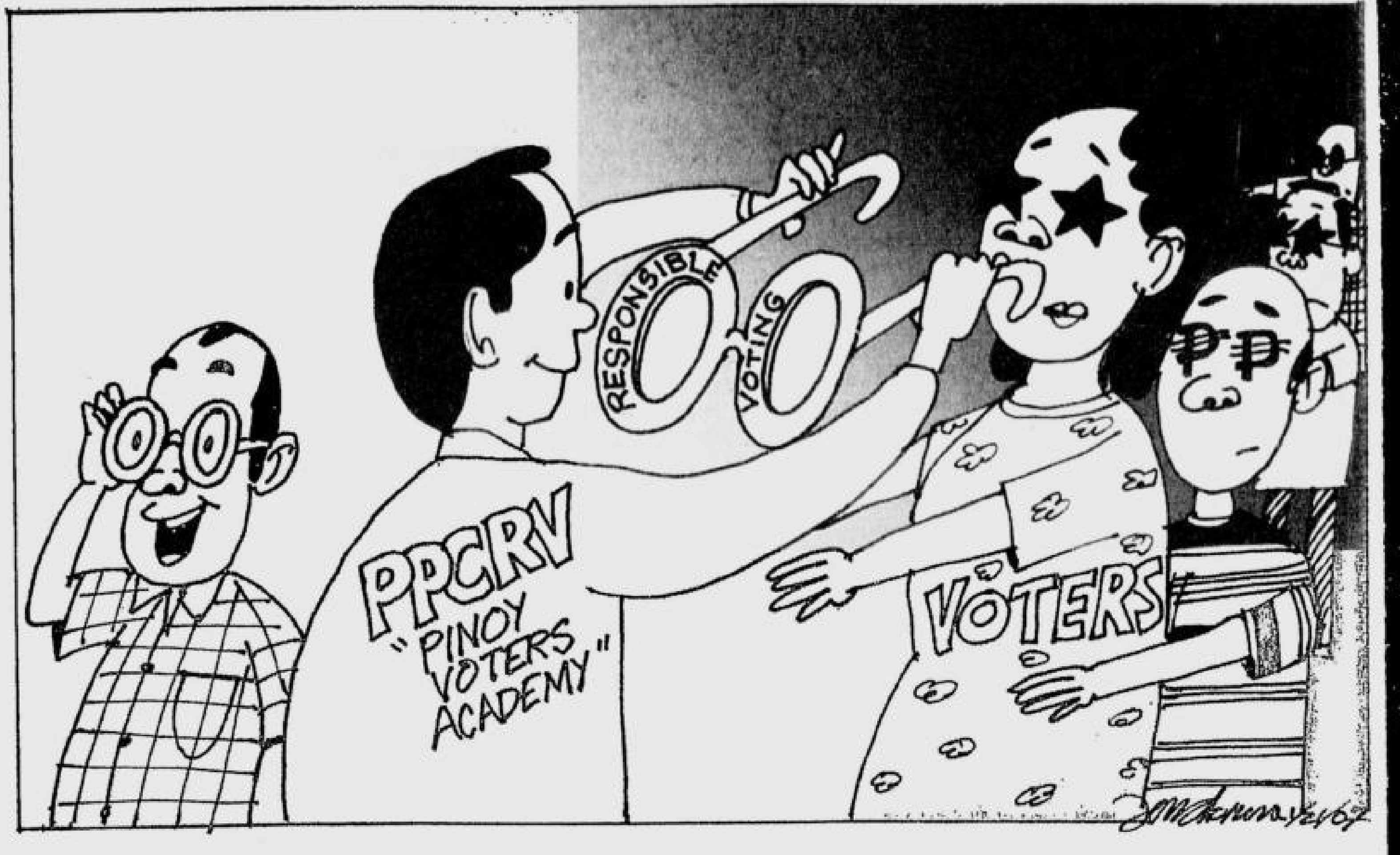
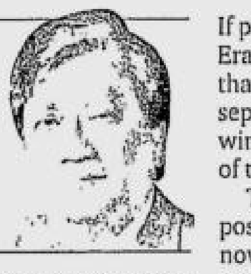


Senatorial slates

SEPARATE OPINION



Isagani A. Cruz

THE FORCES BENT ON REPLACING THE presidential form of government have beaten a hasty retreat, at least for the time being. Their failed initiative has lessened their hope to retain the power they have shamefully exploited at the cost of the people's betrayed confidence. There was general rejoicing over their deserved comeuppance. But they have vowed to fight another day, as Hitler might have said before he fired a bullet through his head.

Despite the generalship of President Macapagal-Arroyo, her army of mercenaries was routed in the Supreme Court with the support of her own appointees who voted against her in favor of the rule of law they were sworn to uphold. The administration has promised to regroup and mount another attack soon, but its courage has to date been merely rhetorical, full of sound and fury but releasing only hot air.

Last month the pliant soldiers under the command of Speaker Jose de Venecia marched their own campaign for the correctly denominated Con-ass. They illegally amended their own procedural rules to exclude the Senate from the second method allowed by the Constitution for its amendment or revision. This ruse also floundered in the people's wrath against another disgraceful attempt to manipulate the fundamental law to gratify legislative avarice.

The only remaining process is the calling of a constitutional convention to establish a parliamentary government where President Gloria and Speaker Joe are likely to squabble for the position of prime minister in place of what they hope will be the defunct presidency. They have squandered the people's trust in them under the present system and hope to be rehabilitated under a revised Constitution. They will probably also violate it, given their expertise in this accustomed operation.

But their plans will have to be placed on hold because of the coming May elections. The candidates will be too busy with their individual campaigns to devote their full time to the revision of the Constitution they are scheming to mangle. Even the Gloria-Jose tandem seems to have accepted the necessity to lay aside their expected rivalry in the meantime until their forces win in May, which is highly improbable.

I speak particularly of the Senate election, where there is a lack of enthusiasm for it in the administration, an abundance of it in the opposition, and a dearth of meritorious candidates for both of them. The noisiest barker for GMA is Michael Defensor whom nobody takes seriously, not even his friend Eduardo Ermita. Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio has ridiculed the non-lawyer who has proposed the release of Joseph Estrada on recognizance—to him? This is obviously a ploy to win Erap's vote, but it must die a-borning in view of the loyalists' scramble for their resurrected idol's endorsement.

Estrada's support may be a kiss of Judas for its supposed beneficiaries; just being identified with the ousted president could be a minus vote for them. If even at the height of his popularity in 2001, they ran under his banner and lost, how can they hope to succeed now that he is likely to be convicted for the heinous crime of plunder? Estrada does not have the saving grace of the heroic Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar.

The belief that those who hate Ms Arroyo will vote for Estrada's candidates is a delusion. If people hate GMA, it does not mean they love Erap, and vice versa. The more realistic view is that people hate both Erap and GMA for their separate faults, and a candidate who hopes to win should avoid being identified with either of them.

The tickets of the administration and the opposition have not yet been finalized, but even now I have already decided not to vote for any one who supported Estrada during his impeachment trial. Whichever party they may join, I will vote for Joker Arroyo and Loren Legarda, and also for Winnie Monsod and Frank Chavez if they decide to run again. And so too with Teofisto Guingona, another worthy public servant. There are other names that will be on my ballot when they pass my admission test.

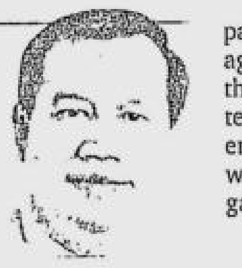
I have never belonged to any political party nor have I voted for its candidates *en toto* simply because of its platforms and policies. Political parties in this country have practically identical platforms and policies, unlike in other countries where there are sharp differences in the program of government of the contending parties. There was even a long-standing rumor here that the platforms of the two major political parties at that time were written by the same person.

All our political parties are for motherhood issues like nationalism, human rights and social justice, and they are all against corruption, nepotism and drug addiction. These are all pretenses. That is why I consider not only a candidate's stand on public issues but also his personal credentials like his education, morality, integrity, social status, family life and other recommendations or liabilities when I exercise my right to vote.

I pray there will be no Garci tapes or fertilizer fund scandal next May and that the results of the elections will express the true will of the sovereign Filipino voters.

Parenthood

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

BELOW ARE SOME ENGLISH IDIOMS, SAYings and lines which many Filipinos often mistakenly quote, without even knowing it: "Guys, let's call it tonight"; "I'll burn the bridge when I get there"; "So, you want to have your cake and bake it too"; "It's as brand as new"; "Every cloud has a silver lightning"; "I would like to order one hamburger and one kidney meal"; "The third glorious mystery is the descendant of the Holy Spirit"; "The fourth glorious mystery is the lost and found of Jesus in the temple." Amen!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk.2, 41-52), we are told that Jesus and Mary had mistakenly thought that the boy Jesus was already in the caravan that was returning to Nazareth from Jerusalem, only to find out, after a day's journey, that he was not with them. After three days, they found him at the temple in the midst of teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. The thought that comes to mind is: If there were already beepers or cell phones during that time, the whole incident would not have happened. Ironically, with all the beepers and cell phones available now, parents still sometimes lose their children. Parents, do you know where your children are? Do you know what's happening to them, what thoughts run through their minds, what feelings they carry in their hearts? Do you know them at all?

* * *

"Son, why have you done this to us?" This was a natural reaction from Jesus and Mary who searched for Jesus with great anxiety. But Jesus' answer was: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" This unexpected answer must have confused Joseph and Mary all the more. This whole dialogue should be a reminder to you, parents, that no matter how much you love your children, you don't own them. They belong to God, more than they belong to you. They have a God-given role and mission in this world of which you are a partner and guide.

* * *

Someone once said that children may tear up a house, but they never break up a home. It is the parents who do the latter, and more. They break their children's hearts and affect their lives forever. If only parents stayed focused on the children and not so much on their own agenda, then there would be more happy children in this world, who would later on become good parents.

* * *

As someone also beautifully said: "A baby may not be able to lift much but it can hold a marriage together." How true! Parents form their children, but children also can form their parents. We can learn a lot of basic, simple, yet significant things from the little ones. If only parents really listened to what their children are saying or are not saying. When was the last time you really listened to a child, and allowed yourself to be amazed, surprised and amused? Honestly, I'd prefer to listen to a child who talks about life's simple joys and surprises, than listen to the groanings and complaints of mature men and women, the so-called adults.

* * *

I heard someone say that parents are like diamond cutters. If they make the right cuts at the right angles, at the right proportions, they can produce a precious jewel. If they make the wrong cuts—because of insensitivity, neglect, or recklessness—they can shatter the precious stone forever and come up with worthless pieces of glass.

* * *

Carefree parents are likened to chickens who have all the fun of laying eggs and none of the bother of raising a family. We also call them chickens because they are afraid of commitment and responsibility. Sad to say, there are parents who never grow up and whose main agenda is just to party through life. Worse are those parents who insist on staying at the center of the stage, and never quite prepare for the entrance of their child. Pity, too, the children who have to pick up the clutter and carry the garbage their parents have left behind.

* * *

Congratulations to parents who, against all odds, continue to do their God-given mission to raise not only well-fed but also well-led children. We can never know what travails and anxieties parents go through, especially when the children reach the age of consent, dissent and resentment, all at the same time. *Mabuhay po kayo*!

* * *

Last week, I listened to a young parent who was hurting because her father was not there for her and her siblings when they were growing up. The pain is still there after all these years. Her father is old, frail and bedridden now. She says she has forgiven him deep inside her heart, but she still can't get to say the words, "I forgive you, I love you, thank you." May we never let pass any opportunity to say these words to our parents and to our loved ones, especially while they are still alive. And sometimes, all that is needed to "say these words" is an embrace, a hug. Just do it.

* *

We cannot choose our parents, but we can choose our leaders. We in the Philippines have not been blessed with good, self-sacrificing leaders. Let us make the May elections a real opportunity to choose good leaders who will lead us, not bleed us. Let us pray for good leaders. Let us vote for good leaders in our land.

Jan. 22-28 is National Bible Week. Let's make God's Word as the "Standard of Justice and Right Living." Amen!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, raise in our midst good parents and bless our land with good leaders. Amen.

Remembering Cora

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

MY SISTER-IN-LAW, CORAZON MENDOZA Farolan passed away last month at the Overlake Hospital Medical Center in Bellevue, Washington. Cora had been living in Sammamish, Washington with her daughter Cathy and two grandsons Mark and Max. Cathy is married to Michael Schultz who works at the Microsoft office in Seattle. Another daughter, Francesca, lived in the San Francisco Bay area for a number of years.

Cora was married to my eldest brother, Jesus Marciano, "Sonny" or "Marc" to his family and colleagues. They met shortly after Sonny had joined Reynolds Aluminum Corporation, fresh out of the University of California at Berkeley. After stints in Bermuda and Brussels, Cora and Sonny had just begun to settle down in a new assignment in Bangkok when tragedy struck. He was shot by thieves who were going through their personal belongings which were still in boxes and crates.

For the last couple of years, Cora had been waging tough battles against a number of painful and debilitating diseases. When my brother died in 1974, she started to develop rheumatoid arthritis which left her feeling crippled. This was compounded by a situation of dryness in the eyes and mouth. It was difficult for her to shed tears and so she had to infuse her eyes with artificial tears. For the mouth condition, she carried a bottle of water everywhere she went and sucked on hard candies to stimulate her salivary gland.

The family left for the United States in 1976, and test results after a visit with doctors in Richmond, Virginia showed that she was suffering from a rare disease known as Sjogren's syndrome. This is an inflammatory disorder characterized by excessive dryness of the eyes and mouth. Dryness in the eyes may severely damage the cornea and a lack of tears can cause permanent eye damage. Insufficient saliva in the mouth can dull taste and smell, making eating and swallowing painful. It is more prevalent in women than in men and its cause is still unknown.

The doctors started her on Prednisone, a prescription therapy for the disease. But a few years later, her parotid glands (near the jaw) became swollen and she developed a painful vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels) in her lower leg. A shortness of breath led to extensive tests that showed up a tumor in her lungs.

When we visited her two years ago, the mass had shrunk and Cora appeared on the road to recovery and better health. She had regained a couple of pounds—signs of a strong fighting spirit. Her best therapy was watching her grandchildren playing around her and the frequent visits of Francesca from San Francisco.

But as is often the case with the big C, she was back in the hospital after a while. A little over two weeks before Christmas, she was reunited with Sonny and Jose Fernando, their son who was born in Brussels but who lived for only a few weeks.

The last time Cora was home was 14 years ago. She had always wanted to revisit the Philippines during those years spent in the United States but her doctors would not give her clearance for the long flight across the Pacific.

Last Tuesday, she finally made it, accompanied by Francesca and Cathy. They prepared this short message for her many friends:

"Mom died very peacefully on the 9th of December after a courageous fight with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma which was diagnosed in its fourth stage in January 2005. She died with us by her side and a favorite symphony playing in the background. In the final weeks, as each breath became more difficult, we are grateful that the Lord did not prolong her suffering and granted her peace. Mom's life will be honored in many ways, especially through family gatherings, gourmet meals and long-lasting friendships. It was mom's wish to be cremated and brought back to the Philippines to be buried next to Dad. A solemn blessing of her ashes bathed in candle light was held at Cathy's house in Seattle amid a windstorm that knocked out the power for three days.

"We would like to thank you for your continued prayers and comfort as she rallied bravely and faced each new obstacle with courage and grace."

* * *

During the nine days of prayer following Cora's death, her eldest grandson, Marc Farolan Schultz, 7, who is named after his grandfather, would recite the following prayer at 7:45 in the evening, the time she passed away:

"When we remember those who had died,
we think about the times we shared
and the many things they taught us.
Thank you God for the times we had together.
May your name be praised forever and ever."

It is a passage from "A Jewish Child's Book of Prayer."

* * *

Last Thursday marked the 40th day of prayers for Cora. Relatives, friends and Maryknoll High School classmates gathered for breakfast at Boy Mendoza's place after a special memorial Mass at the Holy Family Parish in Pasig.

* * *

Cora was a wonderful sister-in-law, a devoted and loving wife, and a great mother who singlehandedly raised two lovely young girls. She was such a thoughtful and considerate person who never forgot important milestones in the lives of family members. She never failed to drop us a line or a short note to greet us on special occasions. It was always a joy to visit with her and the girls in Moraga, California or Sammamish, Washington. We shall miss her an awful lot.

A young man's story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE" IS A MANTRA FOR those who believe an education from "real" life is more valuable and practical than any lesson imbibed in the classroom.

For a young man whom we shall call "J," his parents and family, one lesson he shall never forget is one he learned from experience at the hands of classmates and officials of San Beda College in Alabang, and in the labyrinth of the justice system.

This story is told mainly from the viewpoint of J's mother, "ES," who asked for the chance to share her tale mainly because she is unsure of where it will end, and even if she should pursue it at all. But the story needs to be told, she says. "Because if I don't speak out, what will happen to the other young people in that school? When will they learn the right lessons?"

For ES, an educator and school administrator herself, the story starts the afternoon her son comes home from school and she notices not just his disheveled appearance, but also three huge contusions (*bukol*) at the back of his head. His face bears no bruises or marks, but his back is black-and-blue.

The account given by J, corroborated by several eyewitnesses, is that he was cornered inside a classroom during a break and set upon by three of his male classmates. J can remember only one incident that could have led to the attack. A few days before, one of his girl classmates, who was part of their group, hit one of the three boys with a fan. The boy, F, glared back at them and spotted J looking back. The next day, another boy, E, began taunting J in class by whipping him with a jacket. The two boys were later spotted "conferring" with C, who was the tallest and biggest of the three and was the alleged leader of an underground fraternity to which they all belonged.

* * *

THAT day, the three confronted J after class and challenged him to a fight. To delay the beating he was sure to get, though it was later interpreted as "preparing" to fight with the other three, J began doing push-ups. It was while he was down on the floor that the three set upon him, with C landing three blows on J's head. The uneven battle would have lasted longer had not a painter in the corridor yelled at the three to stop it because they were going "to kill" their prey.

ES says her husband wanted to rush to the school at once and confront the boys who beat up J, but she prevailed on him to cool down. "We're going to do this by the book," she insisted. "We will follow procedures and rules."

In a meeting with J's parents, Romeo Mangawang, prefect of students, advised them to wait before suing anyone because he was taking their complaint seriously. "The incident took place last Aug. 9, 2005," recalls ES, "but I filed a case only on Aug. 23. This was because we were waiting for the administration of San Beda to do something. I wrote several letters to Fr. Anscar Chupungco, OSB, the college president, but he refused to address other issues we brought up."

* * *

MEANTIME, as the San Beda authorities began investigating the incident, classmates whom J considered his friends, one by one, began denying what happened. When ES presented the painter whom J remembered spotting just outside the classroom, Mangawang in his report described the painter's account as "very biased."

In the end, the college board met and found the three boys and J guilty of "fighting." Though two of the three assailants were already facing disciplinary charges for other misdemeanors, the three were meted out only 10 days' suspension and ordered to be transferred to another section after their parents filed petitions for review. J was given a penalty of community service.

"It was the worst day of my life," J would later tell his mother of how he felt when he heard the board's decision. "It hurt even more than the beating itself," he would add.

What J and his parents cannot understand, says ES, is how J could have been adjudged equally guilty as his assailants. "Where is the justice there?" he would ask his parents time and again. Because he would still encounter the three boys in school, some of his friends advised J to transfer to another school. But apart from the fact that he was a graduating high school student, J decided to stay put because it was a matter of principle. "*Ako na nga ang nasaktan, ba't ako ang aalis* (I was the one who was hurt, why should I leave)?" he would tell friends and family.

* * *

ALL four boys managed to graduate and move on to college. And while J seems to have gotten his life back on track, ES says her son seems to have lost all respect for the priests and authorities in his old school. He is one disillusioned young man.

The case that ES filed has, in the meantime, been downgraded to slight physical injuries. One of the accused, F, even managed to get himself taken off the case after a review by another prosecutor. When she follows-up progress on the case, recalls ES, various personnel tell her something or another, including a typographical error, has occurred and so the papers have been sent back for review. One prosecutor even advised ES to pay a visit to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez so she could make sure the case proceeds apace.

"Do you really think I should go and see him?" ES asks. I tell her it can't hurt, but I can't understand why such a minor case—it's for slight physical injuries, after all—needs to be followed-up with no less than the justice secretary.

But look at it from ES' point of view. Her son is set upon in school, but is adjudged equally guilty as his assailants. Denied justice at the school level, they face a miscarriage of justice even in the courts, only because the other parties have allegedly been pulling strings. "What lessons will J learn from all this?" his mother asks.

To run or not to run: an ethical question

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

PEOPLE PURSUE PUBLIC OFFICE FOR A VARIETY of reasons. For some, politics is just another livelihood. For others, it is the best way to protect the wealth of their families. A rare few enter the political arena because they like the feeling of holding in their hands "a nerve fiber of historically important events."

In our society today, a large number of individuals enter politics not because they have a vocation for it but only because they have an advantage they think they must not waste. Many of them bask in the glory of the public exposure they have gained in other fields like the mass media, entertainment, or sports. Others are the inheritors of illustrious family names and great wealth. Still others simply happen to be the scions of families that count among the prized heirlooms a solid political machinery formed in past elections.

Should you run just because you have a good chance of winning? This is not a political question but an ethical one, says the great political theorist Max Weber: "What kind of a man must one be if he is to be allowed to put his hand on the wheel of history?" I ask myself this question whenever well-meaning friends prod me to take up a political career and cash in on the public visibility I acquired in the course of my stint on television.

They tell me: You have the right kind of training, you have progressive values and a deep love for country, and people know you. Then comes the clincher: it is your duty to run. Coming from trusted friends, these words are sweet and heartwarming. But they cannot substitute for the kind of soul-searching that Weber prescribes to anyone considering a career in politics. I am convinced that politics is not my vocation.

Is politics your calling? Weber lists three traits that are essential to a political vocation—"passion, a feeling of responsibility, and a sense of proportion." Passion is devotion to a cause, the quest for power being just an unavoidable means to the attainment of that cause. What that cause may be is purely a matter of faith, but it must be there. Politics without a cause is worthless.

Devotion to a cause, or what Weber calls "passion," is essential, but it is not everything. It has to be accompanied by a feeling of responsibility—a readiness to "give an account of the foreseeable results of one's action." The ethic of responsibility demands that those entrusted with political power always anticipate the possible consequences of their decisions and be ready to answer for whatever injury they may cause others. This is the opposite of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's favorite maxim: "To do what is best and leave to God the rest." A person who will not assume responsibility for the results of her decisions so long as she thinks she is right is capable of reckless behavior and poses a distinct danger to political life.

Finally, passion and responsibility must be tempered by a sense of proportion. A good politician, in the positive sense of that word, must not be deceived by his own propaganda or seduced by the adulation of his own followers. He must be capable of looking at himself and at reality objectively and with calmness and concentration. This is what distinguishes, Weber says, the "passionate politician" from the "political dilettante."

Many feel called to political life for no other reason than because their distinct circumstances give them an electoral edge over the average citizen. To them we say: Do yourself and your country a favor—resist the temptation, think hard, and ask yourself honestly if this will make you happy and if this is what you can do best for your country.

"What if I win?" asks the veteran actor Dolphy in reply to those who nudge him to spin off his long and outstanding film career into a political one. He is not only being practical; he is being ethical. In his heart he must know that, try as he may, he will not be able to do justice to the power that the public is going to entrust to him if he asks for it. Dolphy knows his limits—that, to me, is wisdom and responsibility.

Alas, for every Dolphy, there are a hundred others who turn to politics out of sheer egoism. We do not need a systematic study to know who they are. In the legislative chambers to which they have been unfortunately elected, they sit still and silent, fearful that speaking would expose the void in their minds. When compelled to break their silence, they manage to do so only according to a prepared script. They are not comfortable where they are, and so they continue to do what they really love to do: act.

But the celebrities in our midst are not the only ones who find themselves in this situation. There are countless others who are drafted into electoral politics against their better instincts. The most typical are the children and spouses of politicians who, even as they may have their own professional careers, are pressed into service to keep a political line alive.

In our society, the family continues to function as a mechanism for leadership recruitment because of the absence of genuine political parties. A ban on so-called political dynasties, such as exists in the 1987 Constitution, will not be able to prevent this as long as the political system of our society has not fully evolved into a differentiated institutional sphere. This comes with modernity and the emergence of a broad educated middle class. We are getting there, I think, albeit very slowly. The finest proof of that is our deep disaffection with the present system.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Necessary fictions

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A COUNTRY: PEARL of the orient, cradle of the brave, whose islands are caught between sea and sky and bright blazing sun. In this country, they tell a story.

It is the creation of a story, after all, that makes meaning of the thousand and one brutal, and sometimes bizarre, images that make up the reality of everyday Philippines. So we pick and dismiss, unravel what we see, interpret the angles and attempt to cobble together a story line that makes some semblance of sense. It's the narrative line that allows the writer and the politician and the housewife washing dishes to believe that events have some sort of significance. There must be a reason why 74 people were crushed to death in a stampede, some great moral lesson behind the shooting of a boy playing on top of an electric tower. Without a story, without imagined motivations, without heroes and villains and the jester in the act, all that's left is the grim everydayness of carving out a living in a country going mad.

And so we tell our stories. The governor and unarmed civilians at a final stand against policemen. The grieving widow fighting to continue her dead husband's mission. And the greatest narrative of them all—that of a people abused, alienated and finally angered, rising as one to overthrow the wicked despot. History books will vouch for it. Three hundred years of Spanish rule, an awakening people, the death of a hero and the bloody revolution that bought the *indio's* freedom. Fifty years of pandering to American interests, of saying yes sir, if you please, sir, until fearless statesmen stood up and threw Joe off the military bases. Twenty-four years of a shameless dictator, unrest, the death of another hero on a lonely black tarmac and the grand coming together of an indignant people to finally depose the monster in power.

It's the myth many of my generation grew up with, and it's the same myth that plunged a lot of us into the streets of Edsa in 2001, six years ago today. It was a grand myth that Edsa left us, that belief held by the people about their nation—a portrait of themselves they can identify with. The People Power Revolution strengthened that image of a nation of freedom fighters. The myth is what allowed us, ever since 1986, to believe that we have some sort of hold on the government. Every leader since then has had the possibility of another people power revolution hanging over their heads like the proverbial sword of Damocles. No leader could ever be with impunity, because in the Philippines, there is only one end to the narrative of a leader violating his people. The streets will flood with people, the world will watch in wonder and the humiliated tyrant will be forced to flee from the palace by a massive crowd of singing, praying Filipinos.

In 2001, the story began all over again. The despot became arrogant, maybe, forgetting the lesson Marcos learned all too well. This time, it was the generation born after Edsa, the generation too young to have done more than sit on the shoulders of rallying parents, that made sure the story had its triumphant end. It was the time we were just growing up, just realizing that bad things do happen, the time we could step up and show we too could fight. It was a heady time when everyone was an idealist; of rock music and everyone believed that evil could be conquered, that the Filipino, beaten, cheated and stolen from, will triumph in the end. And maybe it was because we were so young that we didn't know that real stories don't stop with the happy endings, that most tragedies begin with weddings and that nobody really knows what happened to Cinderella after she married the Prince.

So we deposed Erap, gave Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo our blessing, cheered for democracy and the greatness, the bravery, the uniqueness of the Filipino. And then the story took a turn, and the heroine, seemingly almost overnight, became worse than the villain she replaced—hundreds of murders, dozens of the disappeared, the games of generals leaving behind burned houses and homeless children. The events after Edsa 2 robbed us, most of us anyway, of the idealism that took us to the streets—it was the parliament of the streets, after all, that catapulted the madam into Malacañang. People Power was the myth that gave us pride, it was what appeared to be the one clear proud moment in Philippine history.

Two years ago, I wrote a column on the Edsa anniversary, and announced gleefully, with absolute conviction, that "When the call comes again for a cause as great as that in 1986, the same flame will ignite with the same fervor as it did in those glorious four days. And the people will come." I don't know when I stopped believing that. I believed, innocently, that removing Erap was all that was necessary to play out the myth again, good against evil, the people against the tyrant, the underdog triumphant in the end.

Ms Arroyo's betrayal of Edsa took away from us more than idealism—it took away the possibility of playing out the story again, and the identity it gave us. Of course, we know our politicians are playing us for fools. Read enough newspapers, watch enough TV, and their shopping list of sins is bound to appear in neon: the smiling spins on issues, the strings of inconsistencies, today's principled stand morphing into tomorrow's principled yet opposing mission. We know that, we just don't know what to do. And without a narrative, without an end to aspire for, even Bamboo's "Noypi" and Rivermaya's "Liwanag sa Dilim" may not be enough to keep us fighting. We're not on the streets, because we've been there before, and look what that got us.

I do not know what all these mean. All I have are images: Erap's heading the opposition war; Marcos' daughter flaunting congressional couture in society magazines; a 70-year-old man clinging to the coffin of the wife he couldn't save in a landslide; Raul Roco's wife running for senator; Ms Arroyo's ad on the paper demanding we all exercise her kind of strategic thinking. I seem to have lost the ability to make some sort of narrative, to string together images into a story. Or maybe there is no story, no narrative, and this is it, just one day after the next, just one rape after another that we hardly anymore feel.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

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Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Economics of legislated wage hike

AFTER SITTING ON IT FOR SIX YEARS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES approved last month the measure seeking to grant workers a P125 across-the-board wage increase. The approval came just a few weeks before the election period began.

House Bill No. 345 proposes an increase of P125 over a three-year period—P45 in the first year (October 2006), P40 in the second, and another P40 in the third.

In approving the bill, the House cited the policy of the State to ensure the right of labor to its just share of the fruits of production and to guarantee the workers' right to a living wage.

Living wage is the income needed to provide a family of six with the requirements to enable it to maintain a decent standard of living. The National Wages and Productivity Commission says living wage refers to the total income of the employed members of the family.

Family wage, in contrast, is defined in Pope John Paul II's encyclical on human work as "a single salary given to the head of the family for his work, sufficient for the needs of the family without the other spouse having to take up gainful employment outside the home."

Workers welcome HB No. 345, saying that a wage increase is long overdue and will help them cope with the high cost of living. They urge the Senate to approve the House bill in toto.

But businessmen and the labor secretary are opposing the measure. They warn of job losses of between 700,000 and 1.4 million and of the erosion of the country's competitiveness if the House bill is passed into law.

Elsewhere, workers are also seeking a bigger share of the pie, buoyed by a strong global economy.

CBAs are undermined

By the Makati Business Club

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING agreements are the most universal and effective form of negotiating wage increases. Labor and management participate in the CBA process, in contrast to legislation in which politicians determine the price of labor.

The process of setting minimum wage standards by regional wage boards is also undermined. Regional wage boards account for differences in cost of living across the country. Highly urbanized regions have higher cost of living and can also afford to pay higher wages. By contrast, a "one-size-fits-all" wage increase by legislation will result in some regions becoming uncompetitive. This may discourage investments in areas most starved of investments.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) has forecast that House Bill No. 345 will result in the loss of 700,000 to 1.4 million jobs; The Department of Labor and Employment predicts 1.2 million job losses over three years. Furthermore, Neda also predicts that the proposed wage increase will stunt growth by an average of 1 percentage point. This is a relatively large percentage, considering GDP grows at around 5.5 percent.

HB No. 345 will also result in loss of competitiveness in certain industries that are highly wage sensitive.

The minimum daily wage rate in Metro Manila is P350 or $7.11. This is an absolutely higher minimum wage compared with some of our neighbors like Vietnam ($1.25), India ($1.97), Indonesia ($2.64), China ($2.94) and Thailand ($4.87).

In a globalized economy, the Philippines has a niche in a long supply chain. We import inputs from a low wage country, add value through our labor, then export to a higher-wage country that can perform higher value addition through their more highly skilled labor force. Adding to wages beyond our competitive level in the chain may result in the loss of jobs to a more wage-to-skill competitive country.

The proposed increase of P125 a day over three years is not the basis of our opposition to HB No. 345.

It is the process of wage determination, not the amount, that is of concern to potential investors and to our members.

A wage increase of P125 a day over three years would have minimal effect on inflation. The amount of increase is inconsequential to industries that are obviously doing quite well. However, it may push some other industries that are barely breaking even over the edge.

Unfortunately, the industries in the latter category would likely be labor intensive and the result could be massive layoffs.

What MBC is for:

- The collective bargaining process
- Minimum wage standards setting by regional wage boards
- Government granting incentives for training undertaken by private sector. Only by improving our workers' skills will they improve the demand for their labor and thus their wages.

With a more highly skilled workforce, the firm becomes more competitive. At a macro level, the country can attract more investments because of its skilled workforce, so jobs increase, and the economy grows through investments.

Initial victory

By Elmer Labog

WE CONSIDER THE PASsage of House Bill No. 345 an initial victory for workers and Filipinos. For the past eight years since the Kilusang Mayo Uno introduced this campaign, workers and their families have fought long and hard for the granting of a substantial wage increase. We had to pass through the needle's eye just to get to where the P125-legislated wage increase campaign is situated right now.

Many unionists, who were active proponents and defender of the P125 legislated wage increase, have been brutally murdered by death squads. Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran continues to be detained by the Arroyo regime because of his unwavering commitment to push the wage increase through the House of Representatives. Yet the fire of struggle burns hotter than ever.

The stance of the business sector against wage increase is selfish and uncompassionate. Refusing to grant wage increases is the same as asking workers to forego three square meals for their families. How can business owners and the Department of Labor and Employment expect workers to live decently with the P768 daily cost of living for a family of six in Metro Manila?

Even the combined daily earnings of two wage earners in a family is not enough to cover the expenses for food, transport, public utilities and other daily needs. The increase in water rates and LPG prices at the start of the year immediately translated into additional P300 to P400 monthly expense for average households.

But the issue of wage increase goes beyond the economic and financial estimations. This long drawn battle highlights the conflicting interests of workers and employers. We are fighting for our right to live, while employers are safeguarding their profit vaults.

The business sector is very much afraid that if implemented, the P125-wage increase will be a precedent to the labor sector's future demand for wage adjustments at the national and company levels.

While the business sector constantly undermines the urgency and validity of sufficient wage adjustments for workers, we are firm in our stand that there is no compromise for the wage hike demand. The reasons are evident and felt by most of the poor population—we all need wage increases and additional income to survive the never-ending increase in the cost of living.

Wage increases coursed through the regional wage boards are partial to employers and far from the actual needs and demands of workers. Regarding the proposed tax breaks, we view that these will only be of significance if implemented alongside a substantial wage adjustment. Tax breaks alone are not enough to help workers overcome severe economic hardships and the high cost of living.

Employers are always using a "doomsday scenario" that wage increases will lead to unemployment, mass layoffs and closure of businesses. But in fact, factors other than wage hikes are causing small and medium enterprises to crumble. There is the high interest rates, high cost of utilities and unfair trade agreements.

As the nation gears for the May elections, the legislated wage increase is a central point for discussion during the campaign period. Workers will choose to vote for candidates who are willing to support, in words and in action, the legislated wage increase.

(Labog is the chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, [May First Labor Center].)

House Bill no. 345
₱

Prosperity sparks global calls for higher wages

WORKERS OF THE WORLD are demanding a bigger share of global prosperity, and this year they may get it.

Political shifts in the United States, Europe and Asia increase the chances that 2007 will bring workers higher pay and stronger job protection after five years in which their share of economic gains fell.

"The pendulum of economic power might well begin to shift from capital back to labor," said Stephen Roach, chief global economist with Morgan Stanley in New York.

Left behind

Labor advocates argue that workers have been left behind while business owners have benefited disproportionately from the strongest world economy since the 1970s. Among the Group of 7 major industrialized economies, workers' share of national income shrank to a record-low of 54 percent last year, while the share going to profits rose to 16 percent from 10 percent five years earlier, according to Morgan Stanley research.

Wages in the dozen nations sharing the euro barely shifted last year even as the region enjoyed its strongest growth in six years.

"Economic data is so good that employees must have a share in the success they've helped to bring about," said Jürgen Peters, head of IG Metall, the largest German labor union.

The disparity is fueling what Sean Sweeney, director of the Cornell Global Labor Institute in New York, called "a seismic reaction [owing] to the maldistribution of wealth."

A Bloomberg/Los Angeles Times poll in December found almost three-quarters of Americans consider the growing income gap between rich and poor a serious problem.

Democrats for pay hike

The Democratic Party's victory in the US Congress increases the chances of passing a higher national minimum wage. It also gives additional impetus to legislation that would make it easier for unions to organize at companies like Wal-Mart Stores.

Meanwhile, Chinese leaders are raising wages and encouraging unionization efforts at foreign-owned firms. And IG Metall, which already won the biggest pay raise in more than a decade for 85,000 German steel workers, says it wants "significantly more money"—up to 7 percent—for more than 3 million metals, electronics and auto workers this year. IG Metall pay accords act as benchmarks for other unions in Germany, the largest European economy.

The realignment now underway may add half a percentage point per year to labor's share of national income over the next three to five years, while reducing capital's share by the same amount, Roach said. That might be cause for concern among central bankers, who warn that higher labor costs may trigger price pressures. The European Central Bank president, Jean Claude Trichet, told reporters on Dec. 7 that the possibility of inflationary wage demands was a "risk which we do consider to be on the upside.

Not everyone expects significant gains for workers. Immigration and cheaper labor in Asia and Eastern Europe will continue to keep a lid on pay, said Ronald Janssen, economics adviser to the European Trade Union Confederation. "Wage gains have been very modest and will remain so," he said.

Share strong profit

Still, "even employers are saying the time has come to share the strong profit growth with employees," said Julian Callow, chief European economist for Barclays Capital in London. And workers can already point to tangible gains in several countries.

Prime Minister José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain sealed a deal with unions and employers on changes to labor laws that left out one of business's key demands, a provision to make it easier to get rid of permanent workers. Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy reversed a policy of his predecessor by reinstating collective bargaining on issues like changing pension rules.

In the United States, the passage of a higher minimum wage would raise pay directly for about four percent of the workforce, and indirectly for many more, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington.

"The stars have kind of aligned for labor," in the United States, said Bruno, noting that labor advocates like Rep. Charles Rangel, Democrat of New York, and Sen. Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, will be in charge of key congressional committees.

China

Even in China, where widening income inequality has accompanied rapid economic expansion, "there's been a policy shift similar to what's happening," in the United States, said Christopher McNally, a specialist at the East-West Center.

Some Chinese cities like Shenzhen and Dongguan are raising the minimum wage, while the Chinese government is encouraging unionization at larger companies, especially foreign ones.

Electoral gains

In democracies, workers' muscle-flexing is often translating into electoral gains for labor-allied parties. The Netherlands' Socialist Party gained the most seats in an election in November, a month after Social Democrats in Austria unexpectedly won an election with promises to reduce unemployment.

And in France, a Socialist, Ségolène Royal, who has said the state "must have a function" in protecting workers from the effects of globalization, is tied in polls with Nicolas Sarkozy of the governing conservative Union for Popular Movement Party before a presidential election this spring.

Politicians, who have traditionally been more business-friendly, are also making overtures to labor. The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who previously rejected calls for wage increases from her Social Democratic coalition partners, said Dec. 5 that "one has to think about it" in "booming sectors and in booming companies."

Richard Exell, senior policy officer at the Trades Union Congress in London, said that around the world, "there's a growing feeling that things have gone too far, and that there needs to be a rebalancing."

(Source: International Herald Tribune, Jan. 3, 2007)

Daily minimum and family living wage

Region	Minimum wage (non-agricultural)	Family living wage A
NCR	P350	768
CAR	229-235	738
I-Ilocos Region	180-225	716
II-Cagayan Valley	210-218	633
III-Central Luzon	227-278	653
IV-A-Calabarzon	218-287	672B
IV-B-Mimaropa	209-230	672B
V-Bicol	173-220	640
VI-Western Visayas	199-222	564
VII-Central Visayas	200-241	738
VIII-Eastern Visayas	220	478
IX-Zamboanga Peninsula	215	670
X-Northern Mindanao	219-234	640
XI-Davao Region	238-240	631
XII-Soccsksargen	224.50	611
Caraga	214	
ARMM	200	1008

A Family size = 6
B Estimate for undivided Region 4

SOURCE: NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

Wage setting in RP: From Congress to regional wage boards

By Inquirer Research

MINIMUM WAGES HAVE been set on a regional basis since 1989, when the Wage Rationalization Act (Republic Act No. 6727) established regional wage boards.

Previously, minimum wages were set at the national level through acts of Congress or through presidential decrees and executive orders. Since the Commonwealth period, the minimum wage has been set by the government after taking into account the nature of work and the status of employers.

In April 1989, President Corazon Aquino endorsed the proposal to adopt varying minimum wage rates by region. Then chair of the Senate committee on labor and employment, Sen. Ernesto Herrera said the President was "in full accord with the idea that there should be regionalization now because it is not only unfair but wrong to fix a flat minimum wage."

Herrera emphasized the need to regionalize wage settings "because the cost of living and the economic realities in other regions are different from Manila."

The Labor Advisory Consultative Council, a labor federation that included the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno, opposed regional wage setting, saying the scheme would "dislocate the bulk of the country's workers in the provinces."

Or, as a labor leader put it: "this wage scheme makes our brother workers in the provinces second class citizens in our own country."

For its part, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines initially supported regionalization, provided that the lowest rate in a particular region would not be lower than the national floor wage. The group later opposed it because it would discriminate against workers in the countryside.

Along with the formation of regional boards, the passage of RA No. 6727 in July 1989 raised wages by P25 among workers in big industrial firms and P20 or P15 among workers in smaller firms, depending on location and category.

This was the second time the Aquino administration granted a wage increase, the first one being the P10-adjustment granted in December 1987 to appease labor organizations, which had staged massive protests to press for an increase in the minimum pay.

That was the last time a pay increase was imposed through a legislative act. Since 1990, regional boards have been in charge of approving orders for wage increases.

To date, the regional boards have approved a total of 170 wage orders.

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Nico A. Alconaba**

Hope for the whales of Davao Gulf

By Germelina Lacorte
Davao City

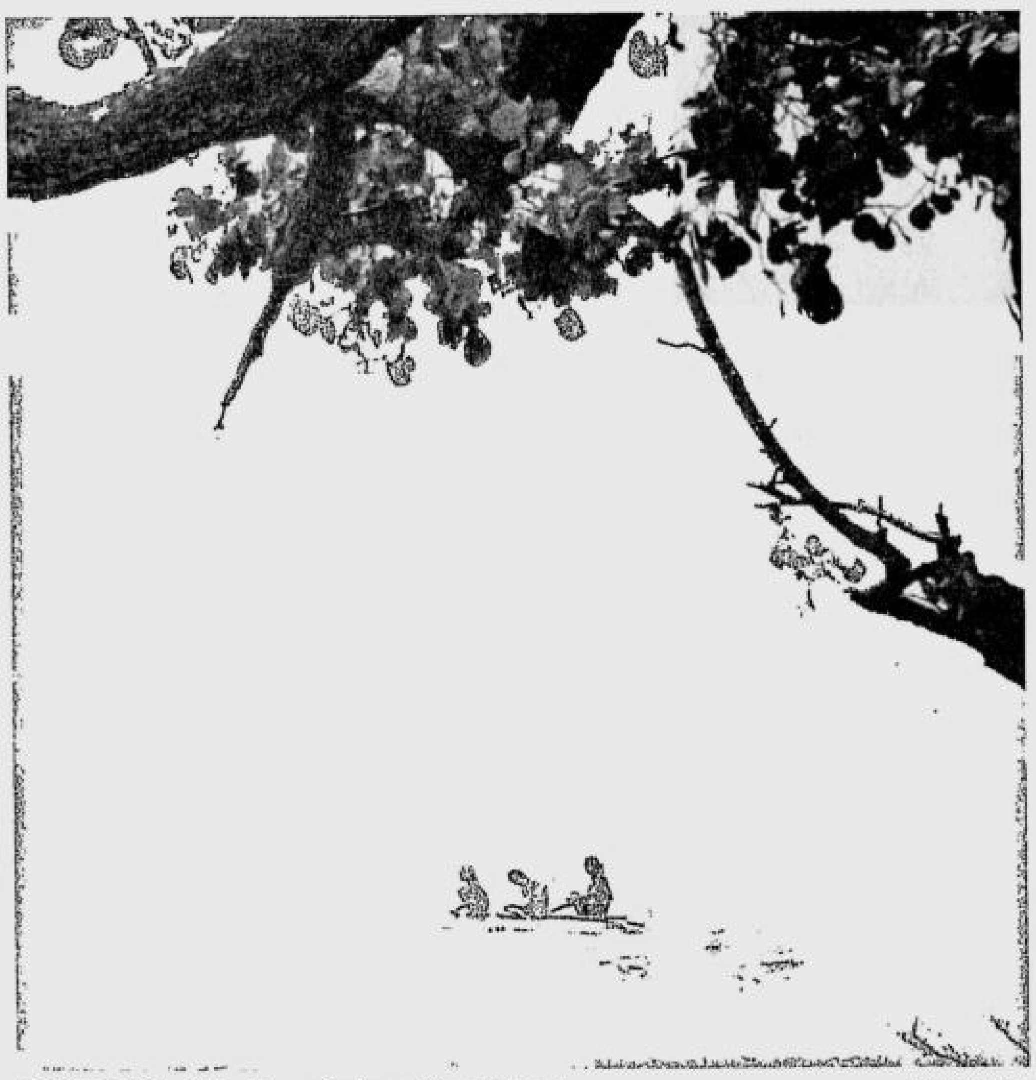
"AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I SAW huge black boulders gleaming in the sun," photojournalist Rene Lumawag recalled the rare sight on a boat to Samal Island years ago. "Then, I stopped: The sea was very deep over there. How could there be huge boulders in the middle of the sea?"

Then, as their boat approached, he noticed the boulders gradually sink and eventually vanish from sight.

What he saw, as Jose Lorenzo Tan, president of the World Wide Fund-Philippines, told him later, was a group of whales taking a rest in the midst of Davao Gulf, home to at least 10 species of cetaceans.

Even years after, the photojournalist, who's used to covering strange events, couldn't help bubbling over with excitement when he remembers that rare and lucky sight.

Found in Davao Gulf are the sperm whales, pilot whales, the killer whales, the dwarf sperm whales, the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, Cuvier's beaked whale, Fraser's dolphin, the long-snouted spinner dolphin, Risso's dolphin and the longman's beaked whale (which is the least studied hence, the least known among whales).



FISHERMEN sail the Davao Gulf near Samal Island. BING GONZALES

Special

Eight of these 10 cetacean species have been cited by the Committee of Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) to be among the rare and endangered ones. The presence of these whales alone "tells us that this place must be special," says Tan.

Amid extreme weather conditions that threaten the earth, habitats like the Davao Gulf, where the feeding and breeding grounds are still intact, need to be protected, says Tan.

While the rest of the country, particularly Visayas and Luzon, have been reeling from the onslaught of several natural disasters that hit the country in recent years, Davao Gulf seems insulated, providing "pockets of possibilities" for environment action, said Tan. The WWF recently tied up with the Davao Gulf Management Council (DGMC) in coming up with an environmental sensitivity index (ESI) mapping in the next three years.

ESI mapping will assess the area's vulnerability to agricultural wastes, industrial effluents and other forms of marine pollutants, taking into account the sustainability of the communities that depend on the Gulf for a living.

Davao Gulf covers a land area of over 8,000 square kilometers bounded by over 600 km of coastline. The gulf, which covers 3,000 sq km of municipal waters that eventually connects to Celebes Sea and the much larger body of water called the Pacific Ocean, has one of the highest biodiversities in Asia, he said.

Distressed

It is also distressed, according to Margie Moran, DGMC secretary general. It's a major transshipment hub of both international and local vessels, which makes it more vulnerable to man-made disasters like accidental oil spills that happened in Guimaras last year.

Around the Gulf, which is bounded by four provinces, 18 towns and five cities, thrive numerous agricultural plantations, mining and quarry firms that make the Gulf highly susceptible to pollution from domestic and agro-industrial wastes, says Floirendo.

Siltation has also been a problem in the Gulf, she adds.

Tan says the ESI mapping project, funded by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC), is among the first steps for the protection of the Gulf, where he hopes private companies will eventually get involved.

The project will come up with high-resolution maps with detailed classification and analysis of the marine and coastal ecosystem in the area, assess the status of existing marine resources and help in the formulation of a sustainable development plan that will ensure the robust health and future viability of Davao Gulf.

Hope

Floirendo says the ESI will provide a database to assist policy makers in decision-making and action. She, however, points out numerous other problems, like lack of political will among officials of towns and cities surrounding the Gulf to enforce marine and fisheries laws, that tend to aggravate the environmental threats that it is facing.

But Leonardo Avila, Davao city councilor who also chairs the DGMC, remains hopeful. Davao city officials, he says, remains committed to make their city one of the most livable in Asia by supporting policies that put more premium on the value of human life, without setting aside agricultural sustainability and viability.

With the recent approval of the aerial spraying ban by the Davao City Council and the increasing attention on watershed protection and development, he expects other surrounding cities and towns to follow.

Avila said the presence of whales in the Gulf indicates that the waters and the feeding grounds of fish are still intact. The Gulf remains a major fishing ground where close to 20,000 fisherfolk depend for a living and where hundreds of commercial fishing vessels operate. To protect it is to ensure a sustainable way of life for the people, he says.

The ghosts of Bud Daho return to Jolo, Sulu

Whoever made or put the mysterious white "agong" in the small cave at the foot of Bud Daho remains a mystery to this day.

The "agong" is a musical instrument which produces a single note when pounded with a mallet or a large drumstick. It is commonly used by many Asian tribes along with other native brass instruments and is largely associated with religious rituals or festivities.

The people living near Bud Daho even believes that the silver gong is enchanted and that nobody has dared take it away from its nesting place.

IN VILLAGES NEAR BUD DAho (Mt. Daho) in Jolo, Sulu, where over a thousand people died in a massacre by American forces over a hundred years ago, the sound of the *puting agong* has often been heard as a warning.

"When the weather is bad, the *agong* plays and different voices seem to come out of it," said Normina Hadi, a Tausug artist.

"Usually, it comes when something is about to happen, as when there is a calamity or a really big storm is brewing. When people hear the sound, they would stop on their tracks and pray," Hadi added.

So, when playwright Arnel Marduquio came up with the idea of the *antigong agong* (ancient *agong*) after a two-month research and immersion in the communities of Bud Daho, he was surprised to discover that one already existed in the people's mind.

"I was amazed when they told me that such an *agong* existed," Marduquio said.

Community people, equally surprised, had asked him how he came to know about it. Not everyone could go to that cave where the *agong*, (white because it is made of silver), would make itself appear at certain times, Marduquio was told.

The place where it is found is sacred ground among the Tausug and anyone who goes there has to go through a certain ritual, lest something bad will happen.

Musical

"Antigong Agong," the musical, recounts the killing of over a thousand Tausug on Bud Daho by American forces over a hundred years ago. The story starts with the quest for an ancient *agong* to raise dowry for a traditional Tausug wedding, but which eventually leads to the discovery of the March 8, 1906 carnage at the foot of the mountain.

With Popong Landero as musical director and Mario Leofer Lim as assistant director and choreographer, Marduquio directed the show with a cast of 20 young Tausug artists who desire lasting peace in their homeland.

The show was mounted on Dec. 2 last year and presented in Sulu, Zamboanga and Davao, in time for the massacre's centennial and as part of the group's peace advocacy in Mindanao.

This year, it will be brought to the rest of Mindanao, Visayas and Luzon to culminate at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City.

The group aims to bring the show to Filipino-American communities in the United States, said Marduquio, who was earlier involved in another musical performance tour of Salima.

He talked about a community in Barangay Danag in Patikul, Sulu, near Bud Daho, where 80 percent of those who lived are descendants of a massacre survivor. The tragedy was never written in history books.

"But their (the Tausug) oral history is still very much alive in the form of a *lugo* (chant), *kissa* (historical account chanted with the accompaniment of *gabbang* and viola) and *istorya* (storytelling)," said Marduquio.

"That was how the story of the massacre survived to this day," he said.

Mission

Unlike other theaters, however, Antigong Agong is not meant just to entertain. It wants to bring about the message of peace, to turn Sulu from a war zone into a land of peace.

"This show has a mission," Marduquio said. "The play may not be able to change the situation of Jolo but a good story can be the start of the long process of resolving the conflict."

It is ironic, though, that a hundred years after the Bud Daho massacre, the American forces are back in Jolo for the Balikatan military exercises.

"They have never left the place," said Marduquio.

Through telling and retelling of the tragic event, the people of Sulu seek a formal closure of the incident. But up to now, the US government has never admitted its own mistake or openly gave public apology to the aggrieved, Marduquio said.

"At this point, history needs closure but that closure should include the healing of the wounds of war," he said. "Justice should be delivered."

Germelina Lacorte

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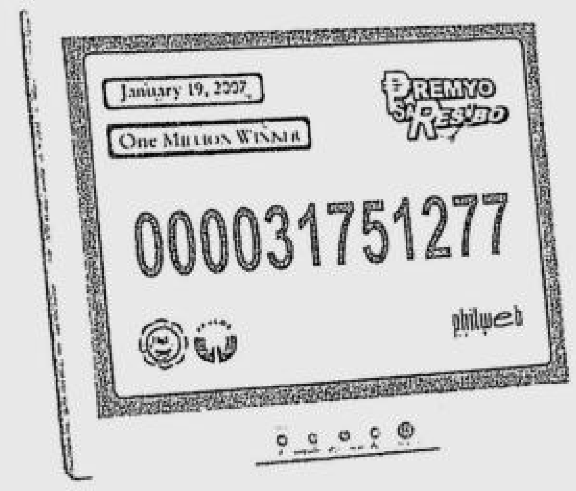

December 20, 2006 Grand Christmas Draw Millionaires!

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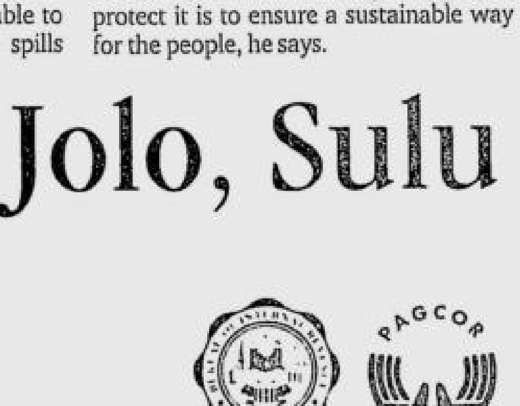
unemployed
Duero, Bohol



Arsenia Pabustan
vendor
Macabebe, Pampanga

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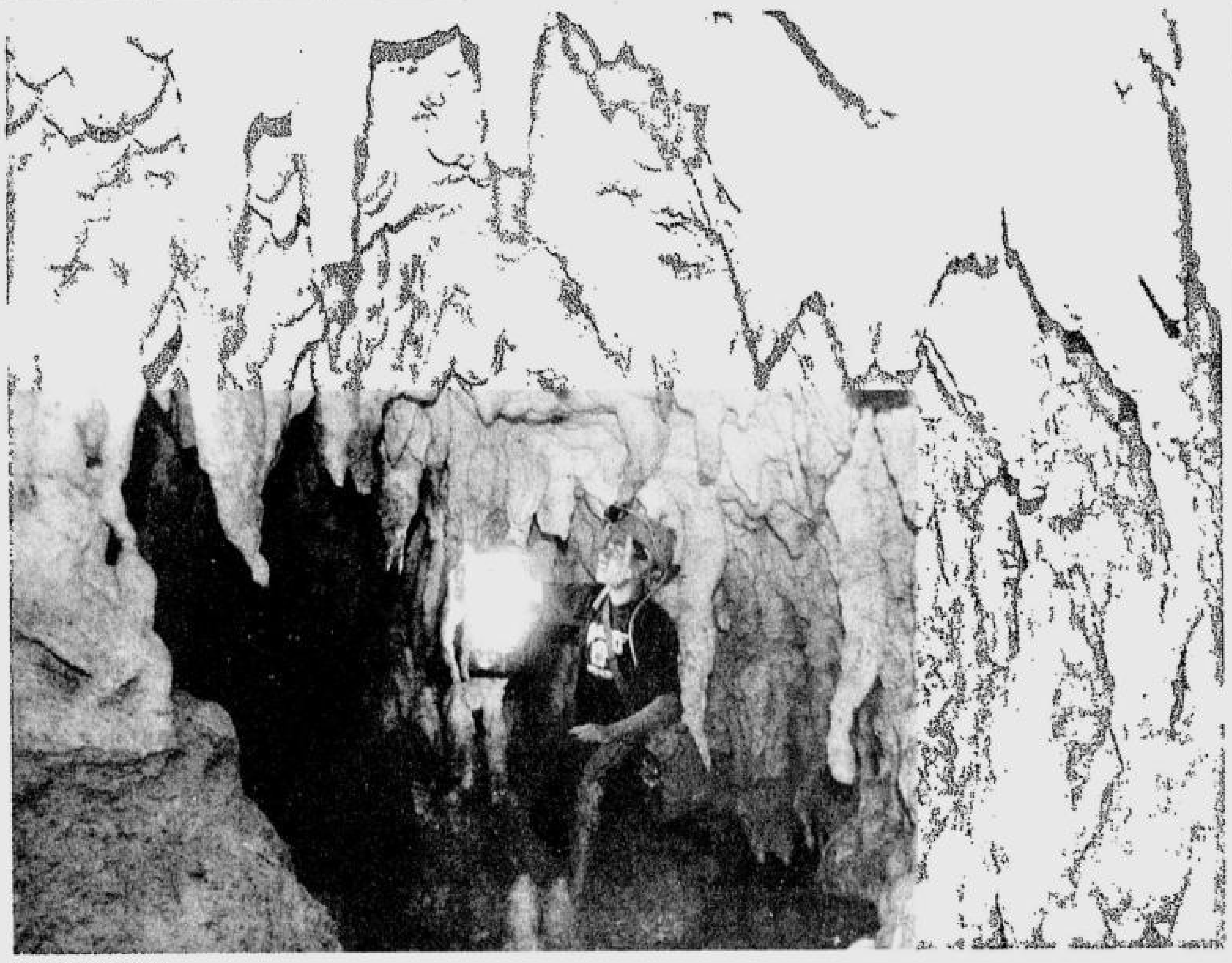
Cops find car bomb in Maguindanao



WHITE CAVE
A man explores the wonders of the 200-meter wide cave in Barangay Baganihan, Marilog District in Davao City. RYAN LIM

DATU SAUDI AMPATUAN, MAGUINDANAO—-Police and military operatives have discovered an abandoned car loaded with some 200 kg of improvised explosive devices shortly before 8 a.m. here yesterday.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the discovery of the bomb-rigged car came after a tip-off from residents of Barangay Pagatin.

Ando said residents had become suspicious of a Mitsubishi car with license plate LDF 280, which was abandoned by still unidentified persons along the road since Friday evening.

He said when soldiers and policemen went to area, they found that the car was "highly explosive."

Ando said authorities recovered 81-millimeter mortars, three shells of 60 mm mortars and a live shell for the shoulder-fired recoilless 90 mm antitank weapon.

"The explosives were wired onto each other and it was fitted with an alarm clock as a timing device," Ando said.

He said the car also yielded some 20 to 30 kg of scrapped iron fragments scattered around the explosives.

The iron fragments, he said, were part of the bomb and intended to kill.

Ando expressed concern that the explosives were intended for a major attack.

"When rammed into a building, it could kill many people," he said.

But Ando said the military could not conclude yet if the Abu Sayyaf and its allies from the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) were behind the rigging of the car.

"We are still trying to determine the identity of the persons who left the car," Ando said.

This year alone, two bomb attacks occurred in nearby Cotabato City, which is part of the province.

One person was killed in the attacks while eight others were injured.

The military said the perpetrators of the Jan. 5 explosion and the Jan. 10 bomb attack, which occurred hours after the General Santos explosion that killed six people and the Kidapawan City bomb attack, could be terrorists.

But Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police director, has ordered the Maguindanao police to also look into the angle of politics.

"We do not know yet but we are not discounting the possibility with the elections just four months away," he said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front warned of more bomb attacks as the elections draw near and denied it had a hand in bombings in Mindanao. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Group says big vessels driving out fishermen

LUCENA CITY—A NATIONAL ENvironmentalist group expressed concern over the unabated illegal fishing activities of commercial fishing vessels in the Tayabas and Lamon Bay areas in front of Quezon province.

Glenn Forbes, Tanggol Kalikasan coastal and marine program officer, said the the unhampered operations of commercial fishing vessels have become too vulgar.

"Their continued illegal fishing activities inside the municipal waters is depriving marginalized fishermen," Forbes said.

"Their operation is a double whammy. They push the poor fishermen into the mire of poverty and at the same time, they destroy the fragile marine ecology."

On Tuesday, police, soldiers, TK staff and volunteers from the Lamon Bay Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, intercepted FB Princess Hedime, a 25-gross-ton commercial fishing vessel, while it was illegally fishing inside the municipal waters of the island town of Perez.

A commercial fishing vessel is locally called "buli-buli."

The police charged 13 persons with violation of Section 92 of Republic Act No. 8550, or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

Charged were Clemente Regencia, boat captain; Lolita Quilala, registered boat owner and operator; Edgardo Andaluz and 10 fishing crew members.

According to Forbes, Andaluz was a member of the local Maritime Police.

Republic Act 8550 prohibits commercial fishing vessels from operating within 15 kilometers of municipal waters. But this has been often ignored by commercial fishers who continue to operate with impunity in prohibited fishing areas to the disadvantage of small fishermen.

"Most of the small fishermen are now resorting to illegal fishing. They have no other alternative because of the one-sided competition posed by big fishing vessels," Forbes said.

Quoting data from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Forbes said a total of 4,518 fishing boats (both motorized and nonmotorized) are operating in the two bays. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

₱9-B project to tap Candaba floods for potable water

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—FLOODwaters impounded by heavy rains at the northern Candaba Swamp and the Pampanga River's Maasin section here will be put to good use as these will be drawn and filtered to provide water to households, farms and fishponds in Pampanga, Bulacan and Metro Manila.

The memorandum of understanding for the $175-million (P9.65-billion) bulk water supply project was signed by Lorenzo Jamora, administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System, and officials of the China CAMC Engineering Co. on Tuesday. It was one of the nine projects signed between the Philippine and Chinese governments on Tuesday.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, who witnessed the signing, called the project "very critical."

Water supply from the Angat Dam in Bulacan has been insufficient since 1998 due to drought, environmental degradation and growing demands.

According to the approved proposal, submitted by Mayor Jerry Pelayo to the Department of Agriculture last year, the project aims to produce 600 million liters of potable water per day (MLD).

Jamora said the project would "avert the feud over water."

Groups of farmers and irrigators have demanded bigger shares of supply for planting than for Metro Manila's domestic use and Luzon's hydropower needs.

Pelayo said the conversion of floodwaters for irrigation will help increase farming and fishing production in the eastern towns of the two provinces.

The proposal said the Pampanga River, as the raw water source, has a minimum flow of 106 cubic meters per second (cms) in the Apalit-Candaba section during summer months. Angat Dam's capacity stands at 45 cms, it said.

The water treatment plant will be located in Candaba.

The project, to start this year with a technical study, will be done through a build-operate-transfer scheme.

The Candaba Swamp is located 60 km north of Metro Manila, spanning about 32,000 hectares of wetlands where Candaba town is at the center.

The swamp, also a breeding and refuge area for migratory birds, is bordered by Baliuag, San Ildefonso and San Miguel towns in Bulacan, San Luis and Arayat towns in Pampanga, and Cabiao town in Nueva Ecija. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Benguet execs plan veggie trade reforms

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—OFFICIALS and business leaders here said the local trading post is now the Cordillera's major trade center for highland vegetables but it is about time to set the house in order.

They said the system at the vegetable trading post needed to be fixed to guarantee smooth transactions, stable price system and the delivery of quality vegetables.

Deals on vegetables stopped here on Wednesday when farmers, traders and other stakeholders met the town's council members in a public hearing called to discuss the proposed revisions of the trading post code.

The code, according to Vice Mayor Artemio Galwan, aimed to provide measures on how to make vegetable trading efficient and balanced for all stakeholders.

The 9,125-square meter trading post is home to a daily bustle of economic activity for farmers, disposers, assemblers, packers, porters, truck drivers, dealers and buyers.

These groups grew and became used to their role in the trading system and a code would be needed to govern their daily transactions, Galwan said.

The trading post started operations here in 1984.

Dominador Dongla, chief market inspector, said there are more than 2,000 disposers in the trading post alone who deal to buyers an estimated 1.5 million kilograms of vegetables a day.

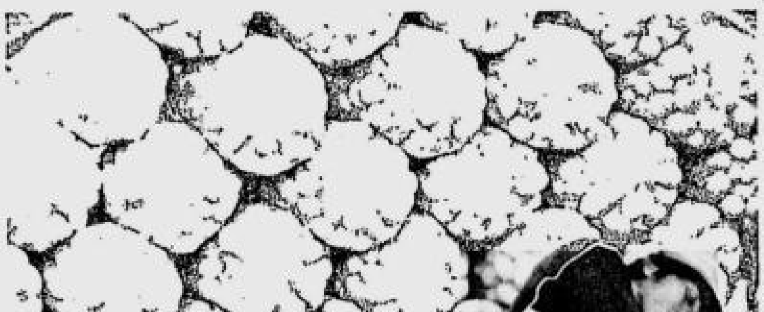
There are 650 porters accredited with the local police while the number of retailers is yet to be determined.

At least 50 trucks queue daily to unload farmers' harvests at the trading post, Dongla said.

These trucks transfer harvests to more than 90 trucks from Metro Manila, Southern Luzon and other provinces, Agusta Balanoy, Benguet Truckers and Traders Association secretary, said.

During the public hearing, measures were proposed to avoid the "barat" (haggling for the lowest price) system of pricing and the issuance of bouncing checks.

The packers and disposers also said they should agree on the uniform sizes for small, medium and large vegetables. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



TRADERS in Benguet are perhaps the country's most relaxed because they need not market their products inside the La Trinidad Trading Post. They instead buy vegetables directly from farmers and deliver them to markets in Metro Manila. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

AFP says it'll protect candidates

BULAN, SORSOGON—THE Armed Forces of the Philippines is capable of securing all candidates in the May elections, especially in the Bicol region, a ranking Army regional official said here.

Brig. Gen. Arsenio Arugay, commanding general of the 9th Infantry Division based in Pili, Camarines Sur, gave the assurance as he urged the candidates not to pay "permit to campaign" fees to the New People's Army.

Arugay said the candidates must not be intimidated by the rebels as the AFP and other law-enforcement agencies were prepared to protect them.

He, however, clarified that the AFP would not provide personal bodyguards to the candidates.

Chief Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Bicol regional police director, also gave a similar assurance, saying police would set up checkpoints to implement the gun ban.

Padilla urged candidates and citizens to help in ensuring clean, orderly and peaceful elections.

The New People's Army, in a press statement, confirmed that the collection of permit to campaign fees would now be done electronically to protect the candidates.

The statement said the PTC rate would increase but it would be a "socialized rate," meaning the rate would depend on the paying capacity of the candidate.

Some candidates for councilors admitted paying P5,000 to the NPA while candidates for mayor paid P30,000. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Albay oil spill threatens fish sanctuary

TABACO CITY—A CARGO VESSEL containing thousands of sacks of rice ran aground near a fish sanctuary here Wednesday night, spilling 400 liters of oil into the sea, the Philippine Coast Guard reported Friday afternoon.

MV Accord, which was carrying 58,000 sacks of rice from the National Food Administration in Manila, was on its way to Tabaco City when it ran aground near the 625-hectare Curangon Shoal in Malinao town, Albay, said Lt. Cmdr. Nelson Torre, head of the Coast Guard detachment here.

The 400 liters of oil from the vessel "spread out more or less 200 meters to the sea," said Torre, who described the area of the oil spill to be very near the shoal, established in 2003 as a fish sanctuary and marine reserve covering 450 hectares of coral reefs.

The hole in the vessel had already been patched but the Coast Guard's divers had to suspend diving yesterday due to strong currents and poor visibility, he added.

Torre said they were waiting for the arrival of an inflatable oil spill boom from Lafayette Philippines Inc. in Rapu-Rapu and an absorbent boom from Shell's depot in Pasacao, Camarines Sur to help stop the spread of oil in the sea.

The shoal, found near Malinao's Quinale River that spills into the Lagonoy Gulf in the eastern portion of Mt. Malinao, serves as the spawning and nursery ground for different endangered species of fish, corals and other marine organisms. *Job Belen, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gov't drops Marinduque mining project

LUCENA CITY—THE MARINDUQUE Council for Environmental Concerns (Macec), a Church-based organization in the island province, has announced the removal by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Marcopper's San Antonio Copper Project from the 24 mining priority projects being promoted by the Arroyo administration.

"This is a product of the people's strong solidarity and unity in their struggle for environmental and economic justice. This is also a challenge to every Marinduqueño and their public officials to come together and come up with a clear and feasible sustainable development blueprint for the province that is not dependent on mining," Macec executive secretary Myke Magalang, said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

However, Magalang said despite the delisting of the San Antonio Copper Project, they will still pursue their campaign for environmental and economic justice by demanding from Marcopper Mining Corp. the payment of more than P1 billion in local taxes which should have been used by the province in its development initiatives.

Letter to bishop

He said the government official announcement was contained in a communication from Director Horacio C. Ramos of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau dated Dec. 19, 2006 and addressed to Marinduque Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista.

"The letter was in response to the Marinduque Declaration which called on the Arroyo administration to delist the said project," Magalang said.

Magalang said Macec will still wait for the official statement of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It is but proper that the President should issue a special order or similar document declaring the official removal of the San Antonio Copper Project from her priority mining projects ...," Magalang said.

A project of Macec, the Marinduque Declaration was signed by Evangelista, Macec provincial executive chair Msgr. Senen Malapad, Marinduque Gov. Carmencita Reyes and Re Edmund Reyes.

"The delisting is good news to Marinduqueños as a large-scale mining project will permanently destroy our environment and place the health of our people at great risk," said Representative Reyes.

The declaration was supported by more than 10,000 signatures of island natives. *Delfin Mallari Jr. with report from Gerald Gene Querubin, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

HEAVY LOAD
A man carries a sack of vegetables at the Bangkerohan Public Market in Davao City. For his effort, the man is paid P5 per sack.
BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

14 Japan groups want militant killings' probe

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST 14 Japan-based non-government organizations and human rights groups have urged the Japanese government to pressure the Philippine government into putting a stop to the spate of attacks targeting militants and journalists.

A copy of the translated letter was obtained by the INQUIRER from Kayoko Sanao of the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), a human rights group which is based in Hong Kong.

The groups issued the call following a meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Macapagal-Arroyo in December last year, where the two leaders briefly discussed the human rights situation in the Philippines.

In the letter, dated Jan. 9, the human rights groups, which included Amnesty International-Japan, Campaign for Future of Filipino Children (CFFC) and the Civil Society Network for the Elimination of Political Killings in the Philippines, also asked Abe and Katsuhiko Asano, Japanese senior vice foreign minister, to "review the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines upon the occasion of your visit to the Philippines."

"We regret to say that the government of the Philippines has not been seriously acting for the improvement of the human rights despite the fact that the leaders of the Philippines and Japan issued a joint statement last December and emphasized the importance of sustaining harmony, upholding democratic values and protecting human rights, as well as preserving the environment and social well being with respect to general governance and to the implementation of the official development assistance," the groups said.

Nearly 1,000 activists and journalists have already been killed since democracy was restored in the Philippines in 1986.

Most of the killings were being blamed on the government.

Ms Arroyo has formed the Melo Commission to look into the killings but it has yet to come up with concrete findings.

The other groups, which signed the appeal, were the Citizen's Group to review the 50th Anniversary of the Philippines and Japan Friendship, Friends of the Earth-Japan (FoE), Human Rights Now, Jubilee Kansai Network, National Christian Council Japan, Official Development Assistance Net, Kalipunan ng Filipinong Nagkakaisa-Yokohama, People to People Aid (P2), Philippines Information Center Nagoya and the Japan-Wayawaya.

"We therefore express our grave concern over continuing extrajudicial killings in the Philippines once again, and we urge the Prime Minister of Japan and the Senior Vice Foreign Minister to urge the Philippines government more to take immediate actions to stop the killings in the country and conduct thorough investigation into all cases of extrajudicial killings in order to reveal the facts behind the incidents," the group added. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

DND says PMA professors' corps to stay

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense has assured the Philippine Military Academy it can keep its corps of professors for another three years, allaying fears that the Armed Forces' modernization project requires the group's immediate abolition.

Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, relayed this assurance to the professors on Monday. He said the prescribed three-year deadline allows PMA to begin recruiting the military's best minds to PMA's professorial corps.

The corps' abolition was proposed in 2004 and 2005 because of criticisms that military professors should serve all military schools, instead of concentrating only on the PMA.

The idea was based on a military study on cost-efficiency in the service that was submitted to the DND and later circulated among members of the AFP board of generals.

The idea of harnessing the corps of professors into a national teaching unit or replacing them all together with civilian teachers was derived from changes made in American military schools, Maligalig said.

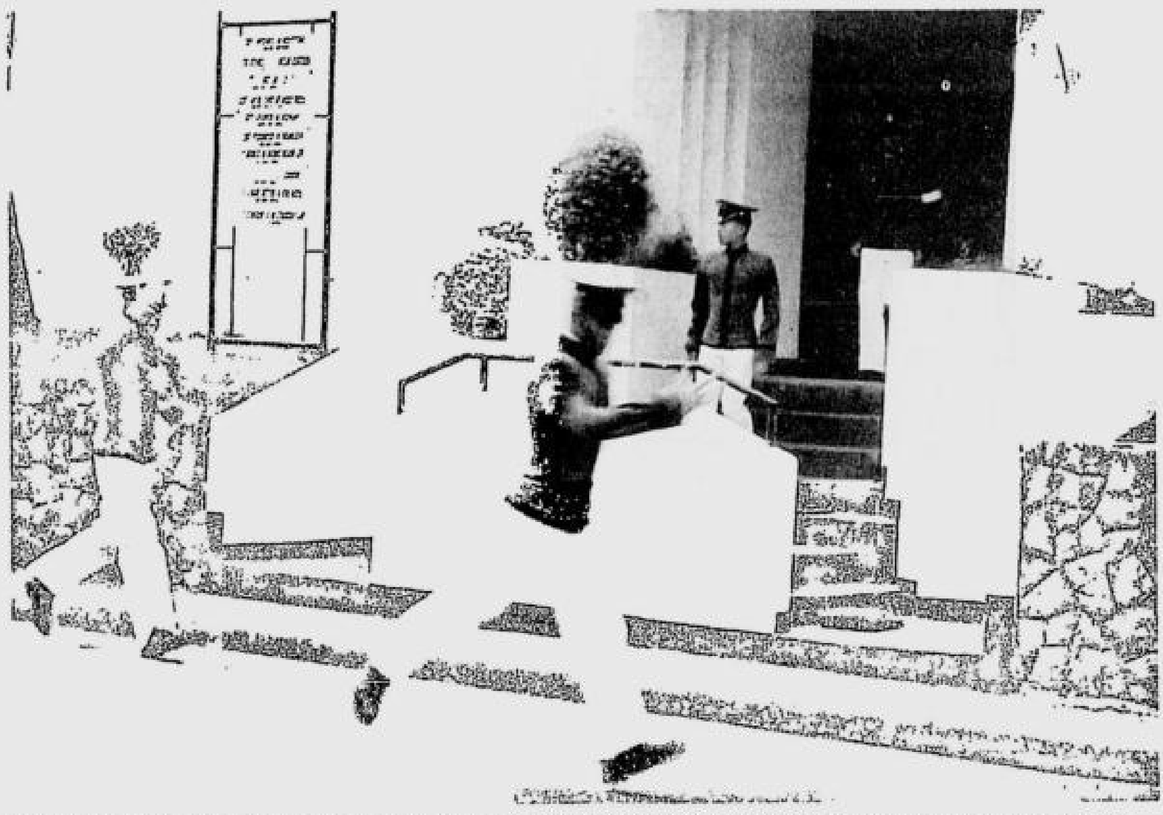
Certain US academies have stopped recruiting active servicemen to their teaching staff and have tapped teachers from the private sector.

The corps of professors is composed of military servicemen and civilian professors.

It issued a position paper in 2005 defending the corps' existence, although some members supported the plan because it meant that civilian instructors would no longer be subjected to military rules, a former PMA professor said.

But the study, Maligalig said, was "biased against the corps, which is a primary resource that the AFP now wants to explore when it approved the PMA modernization program."

The program upgrades the PMA into a well-staffed teaching and research facility that is oriented by a leadership and character-building curriculum. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



THESE cadets of the Philippine Military Academy began sprinting to their barracks right after a parade given to US Ambassador Kristy Kenney, so they can change clothes. Regimented rules require them to be on time, even for a meal.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Thousands seen to attend vice mayor's burial

ROXAS CITY—THOUSANDS OF RELATIVES, friends and sympathizers are expected to attend the simultaneous burial of slain Tapaz town Vice Mayor Victor Gardoce and two others this morning, Jan. 21, at the Tapaz Public Cemetery.

Tapaz Sangguniang Bayan (SB) member Edwin Gabucay said about 5,000 people are expected to attend the burial of Gardoce, Carida village chief Leonardo Gimeno and the vice mayor's driver Anthony Gequillo.

The remains of the three would be brought to Tapaz Civic Center at 6:30 a.m. for a necrological service before these would be brought to the Tapaz Catholic Church, he added.

The 605th PNP Provincial Mobile Group led by SPO3 George Celiz is on red alert starting yesterday. The 605th mobile group took over the duties of the Tapaz police after Chief Supt. Wilfredo Dulay, regional police office director, relieved on Jan. 11 the town's police force to ease the tension brought about by murders.

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Rafal, chief of Task Force Gardoce, said earlier that they now consider Gardoce's case "90 percent solved" after they filed multiple murder charges against Noel Fuentespina and four other unidentified persons last week at the Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Capiz.

Fuentespina, a personal driver of Capiz provincial board member Ronald Exmundo, was tagged by three witnesses as one of the men who shot dead Gardoce and his two companions in the evening of Dec. 30, 2006 outside Taft Barangay Hall. *Felipe V. Celino, Inquirer Visayas*

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PGMA and Sen. Joker Arroyo help bridge OFW families

Last Christmas, thousands of Filipinos came home to be with family and friends. For some of them, it was the first time they were ever home after how many years of working in the Middle East.

This month, most of them will report back to work in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar.

Even though they will be away from their families again, they don't have to feel like they're leaving them behind. Thanks to Globe's lower IDD rates to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar.

This special US$0.20 PER MINUTE rate was made possible with the help of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, through a project initiated by Senator Joker Arroyo, the Senate, DOTC, and the NTC.

Globe Brings Filipinos Everywhere Closer to Each Other

Aside from those countries, Globe provides a more affordable IDD rate to the 12 most popular destinations namely US, Canada, China, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, United Kingdom and Kuwait—only P0.17 per second. Pinoys here can now call as often as they like and still feel the closeness of their friends and kin despite the distance.

On top of this, Globe introduced the reduced IDD rate of US$0.30 per minute to Japan for all Globe Kababayan registered members and TM subscribers ; the P7.50 per minute off-peak rate to US and Canada; and the P7.50 per minute IDD to selected Bridge Mobile partners such as Singtel in Singapore, CSL in Hong Kong, Maxis in Malaysia and Taiwan Mobile. For Singtel, Globe has a special rate of P1 per international text message.

For the rest of the world, the per second IDD charge is US$0.0067, another pioneering price scheme introduced by Globe during the early part of last year. The same rate applies to 3G Video IDD to 40 countries.

See how much they miss you

3G Video IDD is expected to make a huge impact on OFWs, especially those who have not seen their families for years. With 3G Video IDD, families separated by distance can finally see each other anytime and even get a chance to actually share special moments together.

Online and On-call

Meanwhile, travelers with Globe Postpaid accounts can already make an internet call from a computer anywhere in the world to a Globe or TM cellphone for just P7.50 per minute through G-WebCall, another first from Globe.

400 global partners

Globe currently boasts of "worldwidest" services, with over 400 international roaming partners in more than 200 foreign destinations. After all, Globe was the first Philippine telecom company to implement international roaming links way back in 1995. For those using 3G handsets, 3G-to-3G roaming service is available in 12 countries.

Senator Joker Arroyo
Photo source: Philippine Senate website

Hand-in-hand with its international roaming initiatives, Globe also offers satellite roaming via Thuraya and Iridium. The low-earth orbiting satellites extend beyond boundaries of terrestrial networks and connect with remote areas not accessible by conventional modes of telecommunications such as the polar regions, and oceans.

By bridging the distance between countries through different connection modes such as satellite service, VoIP, and partnerships with more operators for true international connectivity at the most cost-efficient rates, Globe is able to bring its subscribers in constant touch with the people who matter to them.

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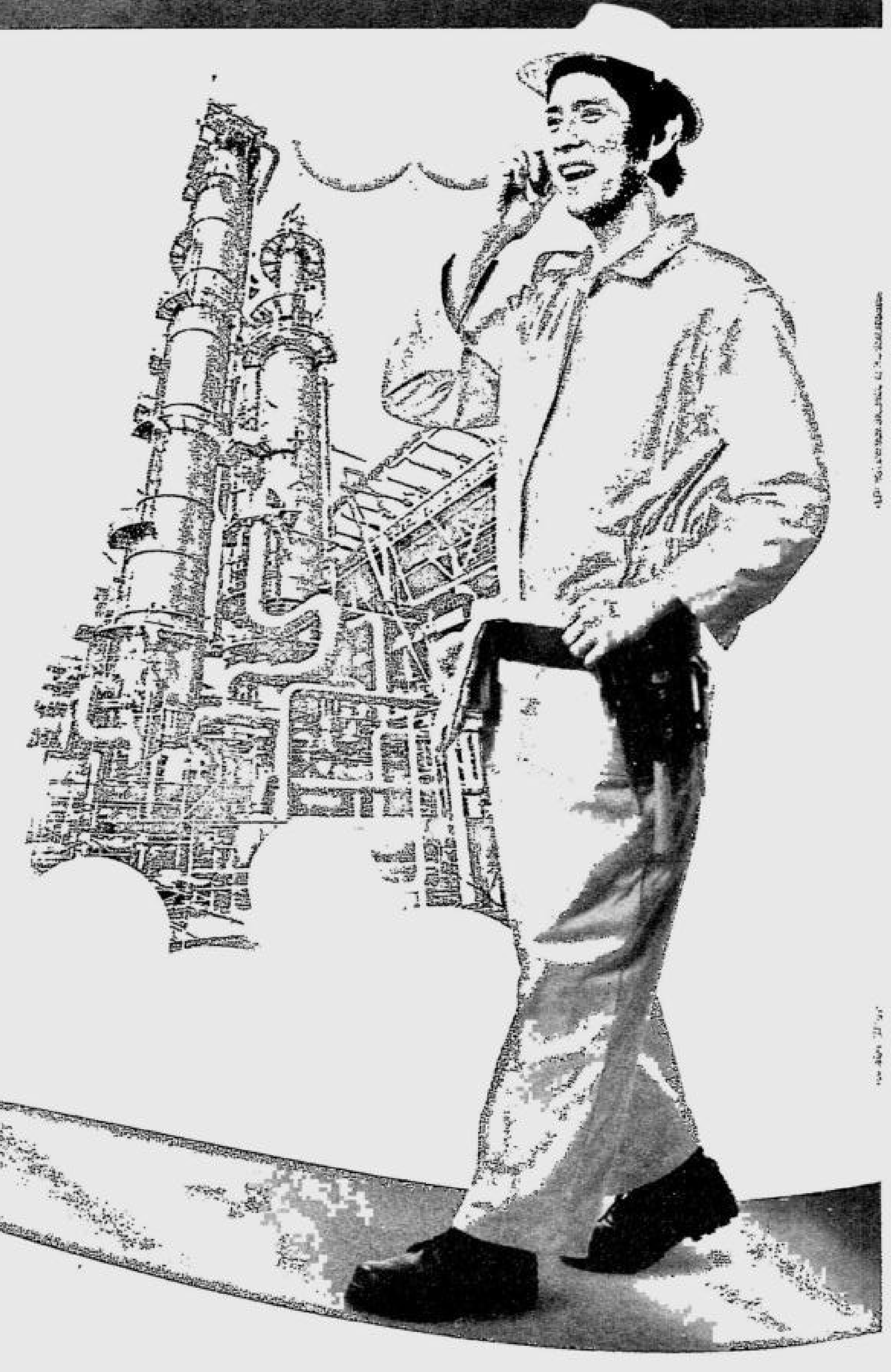

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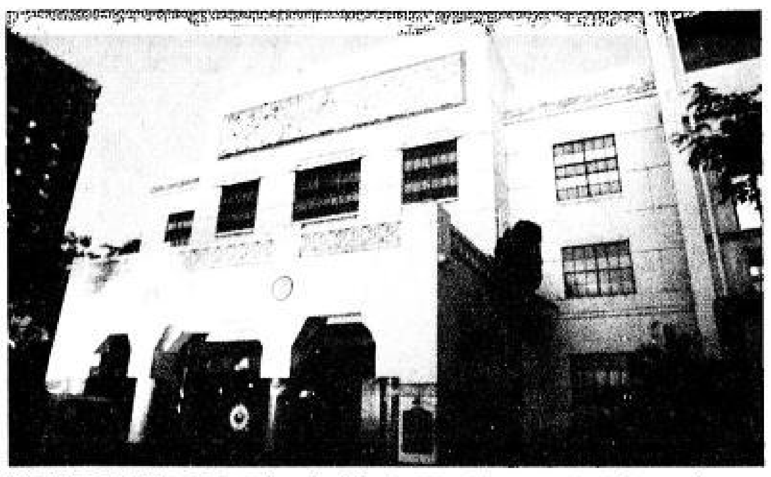
The music heard around the world

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A SERIES of concerts nationwide will be held to mark the school's centennial. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI



THE 100-YEAR-OLD School of Music: Teaching music with excellence and commitment.

THE MUSIC THAT BEGAN WITH A young nun and a secondhand piano a century ago can now be heard practically around the world.

The violinist playing with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the pianist teaching in a music school in Spain, the guitarist entertaining tourists on a Caribbean cruise or even the singer belting out a jazz number in a club in Thailand—they are among the products of the St. Scholastica's College School of Music that was founded 100 years ago.

"We have many graduates who are now in every part of the world. Some of them even leave before graduation because [lucrative jobs] await them," Sr. Mary Placid Abejo, OSB, dean of the SSC School of Music, told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The school, regarded as the center for excellence and pioneer of music education, has produced well known artists such as Rosalinda Orosa, Lucrecia Kasilag, Basilio Manalo and Lydia Larracas-Bunag.

The graduates produced by the school may be scattered worldwide, but the depth and tenor of their music can only be attributed to Sr. Baptista Battig OSB, who headed the School of Music for 34 years.

Sister Battig, a Benedictine nun from Germany, founded formal music education in the Philippines, formulating a standardized curriculum and grading system for studying the piano which would later be adopted by other schools.

The first team of missionary Benedictine sisters arrived in Manila on Sept. 14, 1906 and built a school on Calle Moriones, Tondo—then a shoreline dotted with bancas and nipa huts.

The school was a wooden little house with a garden and a long driveway wide enough for a carriage.

With only a shoestring budget to run the school, the nuns wrote to their Motherhouse in Tutzing, Germany to ask if there was a piano teacher who could give lessons to Filipino children.

"Filipinos love music so much that they cannot live without it. Most of the children display an outstanding talent for this art as well as for dancing, an understanding far beyond their years and perfect natural grace," the nuns were quoted as saying.

And so Battig—a veritable concert pianist in Silesia, Germany and a student of the famous pedagogue Ludwig Deppe—arrived in Manila in October 1907 and immediately starting giving piano lessons.

Another German, Augustus Gnandt, who had been helping out the sisters since their arrival, went around the streets of Tondo, ringing a bell to inform the neighborhood that a piano teacher was ready to give lessons at the sisters' convent.

When the school moved from

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Robbery victim lands behind bars for killing suspect

By Julie M. Aurelio

A SHOEMAKER WHO ONLY wanted to scare the teenagers who stole his cell phone ended up in jail when he killed one of the boys last Friday.

Pedro Lasic, 28, was on his way home at around 2:30 a.m. Friday when four teenagers, one of them armed with a knife, stopped him in front of the Mercury Drug branch in Bayanan, Muntinlupa.

They asked him for two things: His cell phone and money.

Outnumbered, Lasic was forced to turn over his cell phone and cash worth P300 to the boys. His ordeal, however, was not yet over.

"The boys were taunting (the suspect). They even jeered at him, 'Why don't you come back here so we can beat you up?'" case investigator SPO1 Ronnie Tamondong said in a phone interview.

Angered, Lasic went home and grabbed hold of a 14-inch kitchen knife.

He returned to the drug store and when the young men caught sight of him, three ran away, leaving the fourth one, a 14-year-old boy, behind.

The police said Lasic ran after the boy, who, according to the shoemaker, was not even the one who took his cell phone from him.

He then stabbed the boy in the chest. The victim was later identified as a student of the Pedro Diaz High School and a resident of Bayanan, Muntinlupa.

"He just wanted to scare those boys but he was unable to control his rage," Tamondong added.

According to Tamondong, Lasic, who claimed to be a born-again Christian, said he only wanted to get back his cell phone and money.

He added that Lasic was planning to buy some milk formula for his baby with the P300 he had in his pocket that night. Lasic said he even had to work overtime just to earn the money, the policeman said.

"He was crying in front of the fiscal the other day, that he didn't expect to kill the boy. We all felt sorry for him but justice must be served," Tamondong told the INQUIRER.

"Lasic readily confessed to the crime. Maybe he was still in shock that he would be the one to end up in jail," he added.

Police said they were still looking for the three other boys who robbed Lasic. Witnesses said the youths are sometimes seen loitering near the drug store.

Homicide charges are expected to be filed at the Muntinlupa City Prosecutor's Office against Lasic.

Motorcycle-riding men kill QC judge in jeepney

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A JUDGE WHO SURVIVED AN attempt on his life almost two years ago was shot dead by two men on board a motorcycle Friday night at the Elliptical Circle in Quezon City.

Judge Nathaniel Pattugalan, acting presiding judge of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 35, used to be assigned to the Baggao Metropolitan Trial Court in Cagayan province.

In October 2005, several armed men fired on his vehicle in Masical town. His driver was killed instantly while the judge was able to fire back at his attackers. Pattugalan later took himself to a hospital to have his gunshot wounds treated.

The incident, however, prompted the judge to ask the Supreme Court to reassign him to another post, preferably in Manila.

Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, acting Quezon City Police District chief, said Pattugalan boarded a passenger jeep in front of the Quezon City Hall at around 6 p.m. Friday night.

"He was seated beside the driver when the gunmen sidled up to him and shot him once in the chest, hitting his heart," the police official said.

He added that the suspects who drove off afterward in the direction of Visayas Avenue, had apparently tailed Pattugalan from his office at the Hall of Justice up to the time he got on the passenger jeep bound for Quiapo.

"We were told by his relatives that since his ambush, the judge started taking public conveyances thinking that he would be a harder target because of many witnesses," Gatdula said.

Special mom looks after 300 special kids

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

JEAN Gonzales with her 11-year-old son, Paolo, from whom she draws inspiration. RODEL ROTONI

JEAN GONZALES HAS 306 CHILdren to look after. Only six of these, however, are her offsprings. The rest are part of her "extended family."

Gonzales, 38, is the president of Katipunan ng mga Magulang ng mga Batang May Kapansanan, a group of volunteer mothers who take care of "differently abled children" in Mandaluyong City

Her own son, 11-year-old Paolo, is autistic. Taking care of him can be quite a daunting task but it has not stopped her from caring for other children suffering from the same disorder or from mental retardation, cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

"These children also have the right to be happy," Gonzales told the INQUIRER during one of their home visits.

To fulfill its mission of helping these children blend well in a society which seldom understands them, the group conducts free therapy and literacy sessions for about 50 special children at the center it had set up in Barangay Welfareville.

TALES OF THE CITY

Kids whose parents are unable to bring them to the center are fetched by volunteer mothers or are given free sessions at home during the group's regular "home visits."

Gonzales said her son Paolo showed symptoms of being different from other children at the age of 3.

Her mind was filled with questions, she told the INQUIRER. She was clueless about autism and at the same time, she was worried about her son's future. She had thought Paolo would grow up to be a priest because he loved playing with rosary beads when he was small.

Her husband Dicky, 45, admitted that he was very disappointed when they learned Paolo was autistic.

But love soon outgrew disappointment. "Our son is also human. What else can we do but support him," Dicky said.

Gonzales searched for answers and found them in a day care center for special kids in Welfareville operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. She also found other mothers who had special children.

Friendship blossomed among the mothers as they found strength in their collective pain. Soon, they were joining free seminars on taking care of persons with disabilities being offered by the persons with disabilities department of the city government.

With the support of former department chair Edgardo Bugayong, the mothers set up their own group in 2000.

Save for a single donation they received from a businessman, the volunteer mothers, mostly from poor families, have been shelling out their own money for their home visits and for the maintenance of their center.

But Gonzales said dealing with autism is not only about taking care of children—but also about increasing parents' knowledge about the condition and giving them the support they need for them to feel that they are not alone in their struggle.

The group also holds free seminars for parents to teach them to better take care of and understand their children. Those who are unable to attend the seminars also get home visits from the group.

Gonzales said she had worn out several slippers because she literally needs to walk the extra mile for her mission.

Her husband Dicky has been very supportive of her work, even if it means she has to be out of the house most of the time, taking care of other people's special kids.

"I am lucky to have a husband who understands what I am doing. There are times when I even ask money from him to support our missions," Gonzales added.

Dicky works as a bookkeeper for a businessman and moonlights as a valet parking attendant in Parañaque City.

They rent a narrow space in Welfareville surrounded by canals and there are times Gonzales comes home to find puddles of dirty water on the floor. Still, this has not stopped her from lending money to parents with special children who ask her for a loan.

A few meters away from Gonzales' house lives Rebecca, 54, who takes care of her sister's 16-year-old daughter who also has autism. The girl, who has never learned to talk, is locked up inside the wooden house.

In another house is 31-year-old Chalie Barberan who is fighting for her 8-year-old son Jian. She has gained pockets of victories as Jian, who is also autistic, can now talk, read, paint and even crack jokes.

"I am very grateful to (Gonzales). If not for her, my son would still not be able to do the things he is doing now," Barberan said.

Other volunteer mothers spoke fondly of Gonzales.

Barberan described her as a "superwoman," juggling her tasks as mother and wife and as stepmother to hundreds of other special children.

"We don't know where she finds the strength and the time for all her chores," another mother added.

During the home visit the INQUIRER joined, children with disabilities quickly ran up to Gonzales to embrace her the moment they saw her.

But she is quick to add that her own children have never been jealous of her "special kids." "I always explain to them what I am doing and I know they understand," she said.

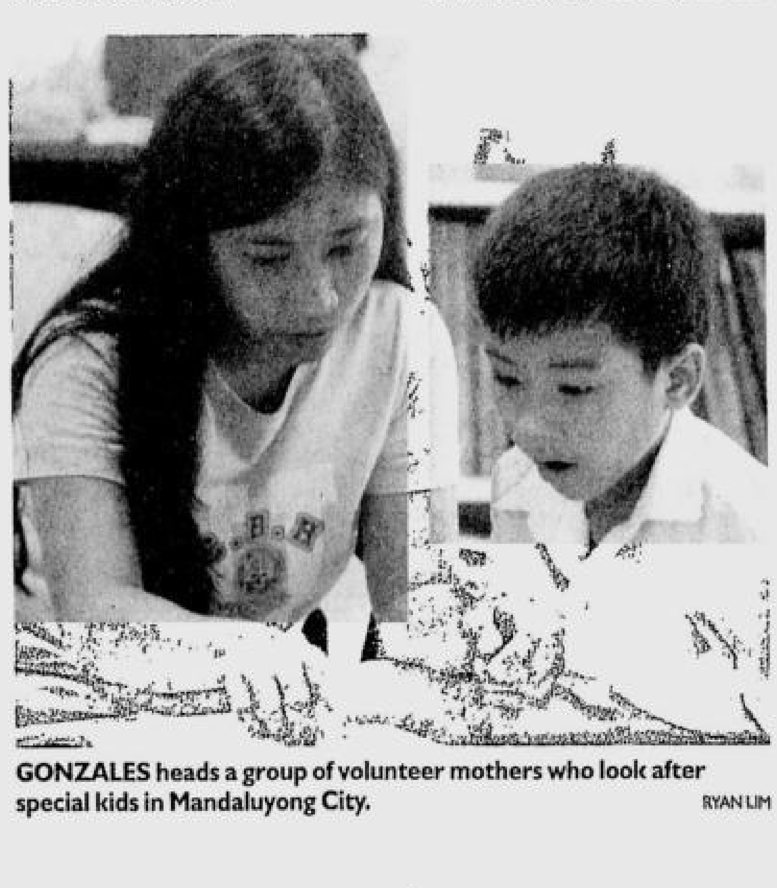
She is also puzzled at how she has grown to love her extended family, when some of them are neglected by their very own mothers.

Gonzales wished more people would financially support their missions. But her bigger dream is for parents to finally accept the condition of their special children, instead of locking them up in rooms or tying them to posts either because of ignorance or because they feel ashamed.

"I hope these parents also help us help their children," Gonzales added.

She told the INQUIRER that she had dropped her plan to work abroad several times because she is very busy with her volunteer work.

"I really don't know why I am doing this," she said, later bursting into laughter. "All I know is I am very happy."



GONZALES heads a group of volunteer mothers who look after special kids in Mandaluyong City. RYAN LIM

CORAZON MATEO: Still making beautiful music at 86. RYAN LIM

At 86, pianist Corazon Mateo keeps the music playing

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SHE HAS KEPT THE MUSIC playing after all these years.

At 86, Corazon Mateo can still play Scytte's Chariot Race or Rubinstein's Romance like the promising pianist she had been in her youth under the tutelage of Sr. Baptista Battig, OSB, at St. Scholastica's College (SSC) in Manila.

It was the German Benedictine nun who pioneered in establishing the system of grading piano studies that gave graduates a degree and professional status in the Philippines.

"She was very particular with how you positioned your hands. At first, I was scared of her, but she was soft-spoken and gentle. I am really proud to be tutored by her," Mateo told the INQUIRER.

Playing the piano was not her first love, she admitted, adding that she would have wanted to be a doctor. But her mother, who was also a pianist, insisted that she pursue her piano studies.

"I have a heart condition, so taking up medicine would have taken a toll on my health. It was one reason why I decided to heed my mother's advice," Mateo said.

She took up formal lessons at SSC's School of Music in 1938. But her studies were temporarily halted after the Japanese came and "invaded" the school campus in 1941, she recalled. Her family was compelled to leave their home on Dominga Street, near the school, as the Japanese soldiers found the space beneath their spacious garden the perfect place for an underground shelter.

"We had to abandon our home, but I had to bargain with the (Japanese) captain for my piano. I did not want to leave it behind," she said. She was relieved when she was allowed to bring it with her. The piano was a gift from her father to her mother four years before she was born.

There was limited space in the house her family rented in Sampaloc so Mateo brought the piano to their ancestral house in Cavite for safekeeping.

When she returned to school in 1945, only three small wooden buildings of the SSC were left standing. Everything was destroyed, including the grade school and high school buildings, the newly completed college building, the chapel, the sisters' living quarters and the beloved St. Cecilia's Hall.

In 1948, she finished her degree in piano along with seven other young women and began her professional career by giving lessons to young girls at her alma mater.

Since then, she has become inseparable from her piano—teaching children to love the instrument like she did—and still does—and imparting what she learned from Sister Battig, in addition to playing in concerts and events at SSC.

But she also plays for herself, especially in her moments of melancholy and nostalgia. "I practice a lot so my fingers would not lose their rhythm," Mateo said.

The music . . .

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Tondo to San Marcelino, and then to a snake-infested marshland in Singalong—where the school still stands—the nuns were again plagued by financial problems.

Battig responded by holding two fundraising concerts in 1910 and 1911 which drew in not only money, but also prospective students. It was said that her popularity was so great in those days that even residents in far-flung towns knew of her talent.

"Even my mother knew about her and because of that, she encouraged me to study piano instead of becoming an engineer," said Abejo, a native of Cagayan de Oro.

While heading the School of Music, Battig also established in 1923 the historical monument St. Cecilia's Hall, where music students could rehearse.

In the 1940s, the invasion of the Japanese Imperial Forces inflicted so much damage on the school: Its buildings, the chapel, the sisters' home and St. Cecilia's Hall were all destroyed.

Reconstruction of the music school began under the term of Sr. Gunfrida Schneyer, four years after Battig died. It took 10 years but the school gradually sprung to life again. St. Cecilia's Hall was rebuilt and composition recitals began under Lucio San Pedro, who would later be named National Artist for Music.

When the school almost shut its doors in 1977 due to martial law, Abejo, who had become dean the previous year, gave way to the teaching of new disciplines to stretch the dwindling interest of students in music. The school started offering lessons in voice, winds and strings.

Seven years later, she established the Philippine Research and Developing Instrumental Soloists (Predis), virtually creating for the future a pool of musicians, including poor but talented children.

Abejo said Predis was aimed at "developing musicians for professional careers in orchestras and cultivating soloists and instructors in the use of orchestral instruments."

Now on its centennial year, the school will be witnessing a "tertulia" of all musicians who passed through its halls in a year-long extensive program to celebrate Battig's legacy. There will be a series of concerts to be held in various cities, provinces and even in train stations, as well as workshops and exhibits and the groundbreaking of Sr. Baptista Battig Hall.

"We cannot live without music. And here at St. Scho, we teach music with excellence and commitment," Abejo said.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Pinay stages ice show in the tropics

By Emman Cena

SHE WAS NAMED AFTER THE ROMAN QUEEN of gods, Juno. She was sitting in a corner of a dimly lit room probably talking to her business partners as this interview began. Wearing no makeup, this woman, one could surmise, keeps a hectic schedule.

She does, but in fact she was fresh from a power nap, she said.

Juno Justiniano, 47, knows how to juggle life like a pro. She is a loving wife and daughter, a proud mother of two girls, a doting sister and the president of the National V Entertainment, a US-based production company that specializes in staging ice shows.

Founded in March last year, National V has since produced world-class ice shows like "Legends on Ice" and "Ice Fusion," and had toured in major cities in the United States.

California-based Juno arrived in Manila on Jan. 4 to tour the "Melanj on Ice," an ice-skating variety show blending Broadway musicals and LasVegas-style production. It will run from Jan. 25 to Feb. 11 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila.

"We will feature a mix of top-level performers, US Olympians, 28 professional skaters who will perform death-defying stunts, jumps and spins," said Juno.

> For the love of a brother who lives in Mindanao, this Fil-Am is bringing the 'Melanj on Ice" to Manila, hoping that this will give him the much-needed break in his career.

Promise fulfilled

Coming over to Manila and bringing her ensemble was a dream fulfilled for Juno who promised to give her Mindanao-based brother Jovy the career break he had long been waiting for.

"He needs exposure and a big break. He's my little president in Manila for the Melanj show," Juno said.

Jovy, 38, the second to the last child and the only one who's left in the Philippines among his siblings, also owns a production company in Zamboanga City.

His Jadi Productions produces small musicals and productions down South. But Jovy's Jadi is just a "David" to Juno's "Goliath."

"I started first," said Juno who finished business management at the Far Eastern University.

But the "ate" to Jovy said that her success is just the fruit of her determination and in no way would it undermine Jovy's capabilities.

"He (Jovy) is also good," Juno said. "In fact, he has produced TV shows and radio ads."

Second in a brood of seven, Juno has been in the entertainment industry for almost 20 years. But she used to be on the accounting side, unlike her brother Jovy who is into production.

Clerk in garment factory

It was 20 long years of working away from home before Juno got her hard-earned success. She left for the United States in 1984 to work as a clerk in a garment factory.

"I was the girl Friday. I did the photocopies and all the errands," said Juno who was handling a managerial position in a bank here in the country before she left.

While still at the factory, she doubled her sidelines working as a bookkeeper in a construction company and a data entry clerk in a bank.

Juggling three jobs eventually bore fruit. In 1987, she got her green card and was able to find a more decent work in Bellflower City in California.

That same year, she met her husband Alexander, a Filipino news writer born and raised in the US. She has two daughters with Alexander, ages 6 and 12, both ice skaters.

"I don't skate," she volunteered. "I tried but I fell. I promised myself not to do it again."

Life has been good to her. She worked her way up and in 1987, she was hired as an accounting manager at Longbeach Entertainment Center handling accounts of low-budget movies and reality shows.

But Juno said she really didn't plan on breaking into the entertainment scene. When Longbeach closed down due to mismanagement, all the company's properties were handed down to her since they owed her money.

Brother-and-sister tandem

"My husband asked me to run the company since I knew its ins and outs," she said.

And National V was born.

But just like any other first venture, hers was not easy at the beginning.

"I was just blessed because I was surrounded by great people like David Lucas," she said. Lucas is her business partner who handled the production aspect of the company while she dealt with numbers and accounting.

"If you really work hard and if you put your mind into it, there's really nothing impossible," she told the INQUIRER.

The venture flourished giving National V the name recall as one of the known production companies in California.

To date, she owns two houses in Bellflower and three cars: Porsche, Honda CRV and Suburban. She has also bought her own ice rink worth $70,000 and chillers for $30,000, all of which she considers investments.

Asked about the problems she encountered in preparing for Melanj, Juno suddenly paused and started laughing.

"There's a different system here," she said. "Getting the permits. Getting the containers out of the customs. So many people were involved."

Melanj was conceptualized in July last year and will be tested in less than a week's time this month. But pressure is nothing to the brother-sister tandem.

"This early, we are getting good feedback," Jovy said. "Skaters around the metro have expressed support and a number of sponsors have been very eager to see the show."

Filipina in ice-skating team

The whole Melanj production is pegged at about $500,000-$700,000. This is taking a risk since only a handful of Filipinos are into skating. But Juno and Jovy only want to prove that ice-skating shows are a novelty in the tropical Philippines.

While all performers of Melanj are power skaters and Olympians, Juno said that Filipino skaters could do better than they, given the special training and exposure to new tricks.

"They don't have the jumps we have in the US. But in artistry, Filipinos are more graceful," she said, adding that a Filipina skater, Dianna Ramos, is part of the 28-man team.

Filipino skaters, mostly from the SM Shoemart skaters team, will also be featured in Melanj. They will have their own production number, part of the one-and-half-hour show. Also part of their repertoire are popular Filipino songs.

Some of the proceeds of the ticket sales will be donated to the Philippine Team.

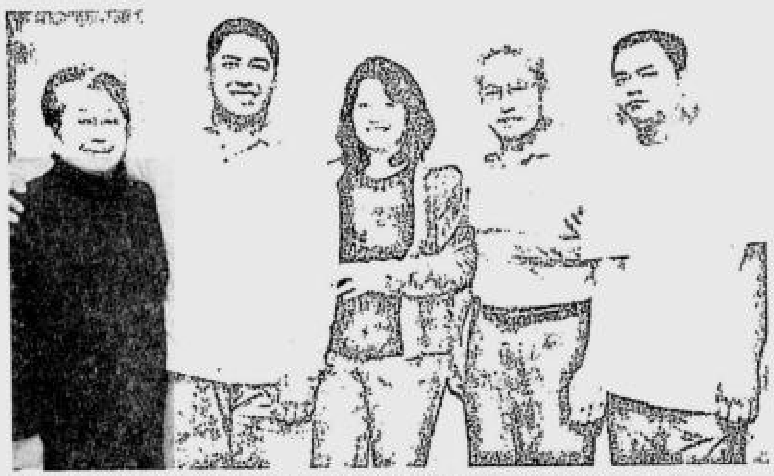
"They need resources and we also want to help Filipino skaters and let them realize their potential," she added.

Juno and Jovy's parents could only hope the best for their children.

"I am very pleased with the progress they're making," said their father Jovencio. "This is an exciting field that they got themselves into. No doubt. Both are goal-oriented and very motivated."

MELANJ
PHILIPPINE TOUR
A Glittering Spectacle on Ice

JUNO JUSTINIANO IN MANILA: There are too many talented Filipino skaters here.



JUNO with family: (from left) mother Zenaida, brother Jovy, father Jovencio and brother Nico

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

Here, my dreams come true! Wow!

By Bayang Briones Flores
Contributor

WHEN I FIRST GOT ON THE plane flying to America, I thought about what will happen to my grandfather while I was away. I just thought I will see him again. So on my father Nelson and I went into the plane, leaving broken-hearted.

Once we stepped back on solid land I saw a very different habitat. There I was staring at the San Francisco International Airport, and it's an amazing sight. Later at the airport, I saw Tita Gina, Tito John and my cousin Alberto.

They showed us the family car we would be using during our visit. Later, they showed us our room in their humongous house. Wow! A couple of days later, they took us to the Golden Gate bridge. It was totally amazing!

Tita Gina also brought us to the mall and man, it was huge! She took us to a store named the Disney store. Inside, every inch was covered with Disney characters! Well, of course, since I am a girl, I like the Disney princesses, and the one I like the most is Sleeping Beauty (aka Aurora). So Tita Gina bought me an Aurora shirt, a skirt and a cute little Aurora bag! Tita Gina also bought me a pair of shoes.

That night we started to pack up for our trip to Los Angeles. A couple of hours later we arrived in Los Angeles.

The next day, I found a surprise. We were going to Disneyland in Los Angeles and my Lola Norma was going to be guiding us.

The first thing we did was to find a restaurant and a motel. We unpacked our bags. First thing in the morning the next day, we got ready for the big day, going to Disneyland!

Sleeping Beauty Carousel

Wow! We hurried to the ticket booth so that if we go on a ride there won't be much of line. We first went to a good ride called Astro Blasters and, wow, it was awesome!

The next ride was Space Mountain. Can you guess what it is? Yup, you guessed it! A roller coaster! A scary one, I might add. My dad almost fainted.

Then we went to a ride named Sleeping Beauty Carousel after which I actually met the princess of my dreams, Aurora! I met and had a picture taken with her! After that we ate lunch, and while we ate I just could not stop telling my dad I met Aurora! I met Aurora! I met Aurora, again and again!

The next ride we went on was named It's a Small World. My grandma Norma had been there before and she told us it was great! So on we went into the ride. We got on a boat. Soon the boat started and the ride began.

We went into a tunnel and a lot of tiny robot people began singing the song, "It's a Small World after all." I thought it would be dorky but it turned out okay.

We went to a gift shop (the one at the main entrance, because there is a gift shop at every ride) and my dad bought me a head band that had a crown with lights and Minnie Mouse ears.

After that we went on the Jungle River Cruise. We got on another boat. This time our surroundings were a fake jungle. We went on with the show and we saw a big tree, some people climbing because they were trying to get away from the cheetahs on the ground.

Then we watched the parade and when Aurora's float passed by I saw her look at me and waved her hand directly at me. So we went home that night and I believed the Disney motto, "Here your dreams come true." It was practically the best day of my life!

The next day we went to Universal Studios. On the tram tour, I learned about movie making. We saw a lot of things including the set of Genovia ("The Princess Diaries"). Then we went into a tunnel. We saw an apartment room with the news on the TV with the lady on TV saying that we were in danger. Suddenly, a helicopter on fire fell beside the tram! Then on the other side, King Kong was tearing apart the bridge that we were on! But we got out of there safely.

The next ride was named Back to the Future. Never—and I mean never—go to that ride. There is a line outside, a second line, a third line and a fourth line just to get to a line that only lasts 10 minutes.

We went to this car and then it moved just like the way we saw it on the screen in front of us! It was fun.

Then we went on a ride called Jurassic Park, but wow, it was a total rip-off.

THE 9-YEAR-OLD author (foreground) in her class at Harvard Elementary School in Houston, Texas.

Houston and mom

Then the next day, we went to our final destination—Houston, Texas.

We flew on a plane for about one or two hours. At the Tezas airport, we got off the plane and went to the baggage claim to pick up our bags. I saw the flash of a camera. My dad tapped my shoulder and pointed to something. I thought he was showing me the guy that wore a weird hat but when i looked closer I saw my mother Cora!

I felt really happy, and ran up to her. She introduced me to some of her friends and headed off to my first buffet lunch. I experienced a tasty lunch and headed off to see our new home. A couple of hours later we reached home—an apartment—and inside, we saw a big poster that said: "Welcome home!" I was so happy. I saw the rest of the house and unpacked our stuff.

Days later, mom and dad enrolled me in a school named Harvard Elementary.

On the same day mom and dad took me to the Johnson Space Center (aka Nasa). Inside was a big playground complete with a humongous slide, a tour and a café. We went on the tour, then on the slide, then we went home but we had a really fun time.

A couple of weeks later, I started school and met my classmates. My very best friend in the school was Katie Lyn Boatright. But just when my life in Miss Chan's class was going well, the school switched me to Miss Lopez's class (my math teacher and still is). I still get to see Katie but only at lunch, recess, in the hallway and when we line up.

A few days later we went to a convention named Body Works and it showed what our body looks like on the inside, literally. I also got a pen shaped like a needle with fake blood inside. A lot of weeks passed and there was a fundraising program for our school and I sold about 12 items.

A couple more weeks and we went to the Kemah Boardwalk. We fed the fish, went on rides and took pictures. I had a really fun time there. We went to an air show three weeks later and they didn't show much, only bombs flying through the air. we took home a T-shirt and some memories.

Editor's note: Bayang Briones Flores, 9, reunited with her OFW mother in Houston in August, after three years of separation. Her mother left in 2003 to teach in Houston, Texas.

Nations assail China satellite killer

BEIJING—BEIJING INSISTED FRIDAY IT WAS opposed to an arms race in space after Japan and Britain joined a chorus of concern over a satellite-killing missile test by China—the first known experiment of its type in more than 20 years.

The United States says China used a ground-based ballistic missile to shoot apart an aging weather satellite on Jan. 11, scattering debris that could damage other satellites and raising risks of escalating military rivalry in outer space.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson declined to confirm or deny the incident, but said Beijing wanted no arms race in space.

"As a matter of principle, China advocates the peaceful use of space and opposes the weaponization of space, and also opposes any form of arms race," Liu Jianchao said.

US concerns were quickly echoed by Australia and Canada, and then Friday by Japan, which has become increasingly concerned about its giant neighbor's rising military strength.

"We are concerned about it firstly from the point of view of peaceful use of space and secondly from the safety perspective," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki told a news conference.

Tokyo is trying to mend fences broken by disputes with China over their wartime history, competition for resources and regional influence. But it has also sought more transparency from Beijing on its defense spending, which China announced last March would rise by 14.7 percent rise to $35.3 billion.

Britain added its voice to the alarm over China's reported move, with Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesperson telling reporters "we have concerns about the impact of debris in space and we've expressed that concern."

The last US anti-satellite test took place in 1985.

Washington then halted such Cold War-era testing, concerned debris could harm civilian and military satellite operations.

The US State Department said Undersecretary of State Robert Joseph had summoned the Chinese ambassador to Washington on Tuesday to seek information about the test.

"Is this one of these things where they have done it for whatever reasons and we are not going to see it happen again?

Is this the beginning of a much longer program? Is this … part of a particular military effort of some kind or is it part of just some other scientific program? There's a lot of questions that are out there," said a US official.

According to David Wright of the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the satellite pulverized by China could have broken into nearly 40,000 fragments from 1 cm to 10 cm—or up to 4 inches—roughly half of which would stay in orbit for more than a decade.

The United States has been researching satellite-killers of its own, experimenting with lasers on the ground that could disable, disrupt and destroy spacecraft. *Reuters*

A new star wars player

By Joseph Kahn

BEIJING—CHINA'S APparent success in destroying one of its own orbiting satellites with a ballistic missile signals that its rising Military intends to contest American supremacy in space, a realm many here consider increasingly crucial to national security.

The test of an anti-satellite weapon, which Beijing declined to confirm or deny Friday despite widespread news coverage and diplomatic inquiries, was perceived by East Asia experts as China's most provocative military action since it test-fired missiles off the coast of Taiwan more than a decade ago. Unlike the Taiwan exercise, the main target this time was the United States, the sole superpower in space.

"This is the other face of China, the hard-power side that they usually keep well-hidden," said Chong-Pin Lin, an expert on China's Military in Taiwan. "They talk more about peace and diplomacy, but the push to develop lethal, high-tech capabilities has not slowed down at all."

Japan, South Korea and Australia are among the countries in the region that pressed China to explain the test, which if confirmed would make it the third power, after the United States and the Soviet Union, to shoot down an object in space.

China's Foreign and Defense Ministries declined to comment on reports of the test, which were based on US intelligence data.

Having a weapon that can disable or destroy satellites is considered a component of China's unofficial doctrine of asymmetrical warfare. China's army strategists have written that the Military intends to use relatively inexpensive but highly disruptive technologies to impede the better-equipped and better-trained American forces in the event of an armed conflict—over Taiwan, for example.

The Pentagon makes extensive use of satellites for military communications, intelligence and missile guidance, and some Chinese experts have argued that damaging its space-based satellite infrastructure could hobble American forces. *NYT*

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY
A woman holds statues of Jesus during the Orthodox Epiphany mass in Kiev Jan. 19. The celebration of Epiphany is one of the biggest events in the Orthodox calendar. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Europe cleans up after vicious storm

BERLIN—Europe cleaned up Friday after a devastating storm that killed at least 45 people, shut down transport systems, disrupted energy supplies and caused more than a billion euros worth of damage. Winds of up to 216 km an hour swept off the Atlantic and cut a swath of destruction across northwestern Europe and on into Poland and Russia. Thirteen people were killed in storm-related incidents in Britain, at least 11 in Germany, six in the Netherlands, six in Poland, four in the Czech Republic, two in Belgium and three in France. Children were among those killed by falling debris or in traffic accidents. Hundreds of thousands of homes in several countries had power cut as the hurricane force winds ripped up trees and power lines. Russian oil deliveries to the European Union were interrupted after high winds temporarily knocked out electricity Friday at a pumping station on a pipeline through the Ukraine. *AFP*

Bush faulted for stem cell funding limits

WASHINGTON—A senior US National Institutes of Health official said on Friday President George W. Bush's limits on federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research have blocked potential medical breakthroughs. The comments by Story Landis, director of the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, came as supporters of a bill to lift Bush's restrictions make a push for Senate passage in the coming weeks. Bush used the only veto of his presidency last July to reject an identical bill and has promised another veto. Democrats who seized control of Congress in November elections have made its passage a high priority. It cleared the House of Representatives on Jan. 11 by a vote of 253-174, short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. *Reuters*

Tormentor of Indian actress evicted

LONDON—The international storm over a British reality television show looked set to subside Saturday after viewers evicted a woman who hurled a stream of alleged racist abuse at a Bollywood star. Viewers voted to evict Jade Goody who had taunted Indian actress Shilpa Shetty in the "Celebrity Big Brother" program, where participants live shut off from the world in a fishbowl environment. Along with former Miss Great Britain Danielle Lloyd and one-time pop star Jo O'Meara, Goody has reduced Shetty to tears on numerous occasions. Shetty has been called a "dog" and asked whether she lives in a shack, prompting protestors in India to burn effigies of the show's producers. One reader who wrote to The Hindu newspaper said the treatment meted out to Shetty, 31, was "an insult not only to her but the entire Indian community." *AFP*

Prominent journalist shot dead in Istanbul

ISTANBUL—TURKISH-ARMENIan journalist Hrant Dink, targeted by nationalist circles and the courts for his views on the 1915-18 killings of Armenians, was shot dead outside his office here Friday in what was immediately branded a "political assassination." A local official announced that three people were detained in connection with the murder as thousands took to the streets in protest and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged to quickly catch the perpetrators of what he termed "an attack on freedom of thought." "There are three people in custody. We are very close to solving the case. We have definitive evidence," Istanbul governor Muammer Guler told reporters here, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The 53-year-old Dink was shot at the entrance of his newspaper's offices in the busy Sisli district, on the European side of the city, an employee of the weekly Agos newspaper which he edited told AFP.

The NTV news channel said Dink died instantly after being shot in the head and in the neck.

Police were looking for a man in his late teens, wearing a denim jacket and a white cap, NTV said, while the Anatolia news agency reported that witnesses saw a man in his late twenties running from the scene.

Dink's lawyer, Erdal Dogan, told the CNN-Turk news channel that his client had been receiving threats, but had not requested police protection.

In his latest column dated Jan. 10, Dink wrote of a "considerable group of people who see me as an enemy of the Turks," saying he had received letters "full of anger and menace." Some 5,000 protestors—many carrying red carnations and pictures of Dink with the inscription "My dear brother" in Turkish, Armenian and English—gathered outside the Agos offices, demanding justice.

"We are all Armenians, We are all Hrant Dink," chanted the protestors.

In the capital Ankara, about 700 people—mainly trade unionists and human rights activists—held a peaceful sit-in in central Kizilay square, Anatolia reported. *AFP*

Cambodia's 'jungle woman': Mystery or miracle?

OYADAO, CAMBODIA—SMALL groups of people come and go all day, peering into the dirty, ramshackle house where Cambodia's 'jungle woman' lives with the family that is claiming her as their long-lost daughter.

About 30 people gathered in this remote district in the northeastern province of Rattanakiri early Saturday morning outside the home of Sal Lou, poking their heads through the front door and peering through windows for a glimpse of the dark-skinned, skinny woman the family claims is Rochom P'ngieng, who would now be 27 years old.

Their daughter went missing from the area at the age of eight while herding buffalo in 1988.

Sal Lou, a village policeman, and his family insist the woman who emerged from the jungle a week ago—naked, grunting, and walking like a wild animal—is their daughter, identifiable by a scar on her arm.

But to many in this dirt-poor area of Cambodia, there is more mystery than miracle to the case. No clues have emerged from the woman herself, who can speak but shows no signs of being able to speak any intelligible language.

While few villagers will hazard a guess about the woman's true story is, many are skeptical she could survive on her own in the jungle. Nomadic people do live in small isolated groups in this part of Cambodia, avoiding contact with civilization. The woman could be one of them or have been taken care of by them.

The possibility also exists that she cold be a lost, traumatized refugee, since many members of hill tribe minorities facing religious persecution in Vietnam's nearby Central Highlands have fled through this area.

The grown-up feral child spends her days mostly sitting or lying on the floor, sleeping or staring glassy-eyed at the visitors who gawk at her.

As she ate a breakfast of plain rice porridge on Saturday, the onlookers considered her case.

P'NGIENG AP

She was discovered earlier this month after a villager noticed that food disappeared from a lunch box he left at a site near his farm, said local police.

Concealing himself to catch the thief, he was astonished to see it was a naked young woman. With the help of some friends, they captured her on Jan. 13.

A big talking point among local villagers has been the length of her hair, apparently already trimmed relatively short when she was caught.

"It should have been very long by now. I am very puzzled by her short hair," said Meng Chuon, 50, an onlooker from the area.

There were many questions about how she could have survived in the wild at all, especially for such a long time, he noted.

"What did she eat? This area is very cold at night. She was naked all the time. Also, this is malarial country."

The beliefs of the highly superstitious people in the area—many of whom are animists who revere nature—caused him to hedge his doubts: "Maybe, though, the jungle spirit cut her hair for her," he suggested.

Sal Lou, 45, who is a member of the Pnong ethnic minority, described the woman when he first saw her. "She was naked and walking in a bending-forward position like a monkey, exactly like a monkey. She was bare-bones skinny." *AP*

Escapes from fish farms threaten wild salmon

OSLO—HUNDREDS OF THOUsands of salmon escape from Norwegian fish farms each year carrying parasites that pose a serious threat to wild salmon, a growing phenomenon that has fish farmers, environmentalists and authorities worried.

Some 790,000 salmon and trout slipped through the nets last year, compared to 722,000 the previous year.

This despite the fact that the salmon are continuously monitored. Underwater cameras and divers are constantly on the lookout for small holes in the nets of the aluminium cages that lie 35 meters (115 feet) under the surface.

The escapes are "a crime against the environment," Peter Gullestad, the head of the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, told AFP, adding: "Norway is facing its biggest ecological challenge." The fish that escape from Norway's 1,000 fish farms, located in fjords and rivers along the 21,347 kilometers (13,264 miles) of coastline, threaten the maritime ecosystem.

"Salmon lice is the biggest threat" to stocks of wild salmon in the long term, explained Espen Farstad, a spokesperson for the Norwegian hunting and fishing association NJFF.

The lice, which live in salt water and are known by the Latin name Lepeophtheirus salmonis, bite the salmon until they bleed, feeding off of the fish's mucus and causing the least resistant fish to die.

Most susceptible are young wild salmon swimming in the fjords and rivers before they head off to the open sea, as their immune systems are not yet fully developed.

The lice is a problem at all salmon farms around the world, but in Norway poses a particular problem since fish are the country's second-largest natural resource export after oil and gas.

Also, as farmed salmon increasingly mix with wild salmon, the genetic composition of the latter changes.

"In the future, the entire genetic system of the wild fauna could be modified," Farstad warned. *AFP*

Bird flu claims 62nd human life in Indonesia

JAKARTA—BIRD FLU HAS KILLED a woman in Indonesia, the 62nd death from the virus in the country with the highest human fatality rate, a health ministry official said on Saturday.

The 19-year-old woman from West Java died on Friday, Dr. Muhammad Nadirin at the ministry's bird flu center, said.

"Six days before she got sick she had contact with a sick chicken that, according to the agriculture department's rapid test, was also positive for bird flu," he said.

Indonesia, the world's fourth-most-populous country and one that stretches across 17,000 islands in an archipelago as wide as the continental United States, faces an uphill task in fighting the virus.

Millions of backyard fowl live in close proximity to humans and health education campaigns have often been patchy and rules difficult to enforce.

Bird flu remains essentially an animal disease, but it has infected nearly 260 people worldwide since late 2003, killing more than 150, according to the World Health Organisation, and sparking fears of a pandemic. *Reuters*

FROM POW TO MOTHER
Jessica Lynch, a student at West Virginia University, poses at the school's campus in Morgantown, W.Va., in this April 2006 photo. Former POW Lynch became a mother on Jan. 19, giving birth to a girl whom she named in honor of a fallen comrade. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Sharapova, Hingis score /A25

Sunday SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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Barako, Pals eye semis

KELLY WILLIAMS of SLR loses his balance against Topex Robinson and Junthy Valenzuela of Red Bull in Game 3.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
4:05 p.m. — Purefoods vs Talk 'N Text
6:35 p.m. — Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia

By Musong R. Castillo

THERE'S BLOOD IN THE water, and Yeng Guiao and Derrick Pumaren know that the enemy is ripe for the kill.

Red Bull and Talk 'N Text try to close out their respective quarterfinal series today in the PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome with Sta. Lucia and defending champion Purefoods only given slim chances of extending the best-of-five duels to the limit.

Enjoying 2-1 leads, both champion coaches expect to wrap it all up with the Realtors looking one fagged-out lot and the Chunkee Giants suffering from severe manpower shortage.

The Phone Pals take the first of two shots at a semifinal berth when they collide with the Giants at 4:05 p.m., before Red Bull tries to finish off Sta. Lucia at 6:35 p.m.

Jimmy Alapag returns to active duty for Talk 'N Text even as Purefoods braces for the likely absence of durable enforcer Marc Pingris, who limped out of Game 3 because of a severe ankle sprain in the second period.

Pingris, who starred in Game 1 with 19 points and 17 rebounds, has been a battered commodity for the Giants in this series. He also failed to finish Game 2 because of a nose injury.

"Definitely, we will wrap it up on Sunday," Pumaren said, moments after TNT's 107-78 victory Friday. "We will not give them a chance, because Purefoods is also a tough team."

Guiao also wants to finish off the weary Realtors, who came all the way from the wild card phase.

"I think they (Realtors) are now starting to feel their long season," Guiao said. "We will not let this (chance) slip away. We will grind it out on Sunday (today) and finish them off."

Adding to Sta. Lucia's woes, starting forward Dennis Espino has been declared out of the series because he needs to have kidney stones removed.

Guiao said his team has improved in stages in the series, from bad to fair to good in Game 3, and that momentum is definitely on their side as the Realtors showed that they could not keep up with the hectic action Friday.

MVP upbeat after Fiba meeting

By Beth Celis

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAMAHANG Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) came out of their first meeting with the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) upbeat that a concrete solution may finally be reached that will lead to the lifting of the suspension of the country from international tournaments.

Led by PLDT chief Manny V. Pangilinan, the SBP officials held a two-and-a-half hour dialogue with Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann and executive assistant Samia Odell. Pangilinan urged the Fiba to "take concrete and active steps to help resolve the basketball impasse with finality."

"We came to Geneva to report personally to Mr. Baumann what the 3-man panel has accomplished so far in accordance with the Tokyo Agreement as well as to open direct communication lines with the Fiba," Pangilinan said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER after the first of two meetings at the Fiba headquarters in Geneva, which the group has dubbed as a breakthrough conference. "I am happy to report that we have achieved both."

With Pangilinan during the meeting were Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former president of the controversial Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), PBA chair Ricky Vargas, PBA commissioner Noli Eala and PLDT executive Al Panlilio.

Baumann assured the SBP that the Fiba remains committed to the Joint Communique entered into by Pilipinas Basketball and the BAP in Tokyo in August last year, and emphasized that continuous adherence and compliance with the agreement by all basketball stakeholders will be critical in solving the basketball crisis.

Pangilinan further stressed the need for Fiba

MVP/ 25

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Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency	Medium
Hands	Procter & Gamble Phils	Safeguard	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - Print
Flag Campaign	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN CCM	Multimedia Campaign

GOLD

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency	Medium
Mamang	Jollibee Foods Corp.	Jollibee	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
Gold	Globe Telecom	Globe Corporate	Harisson Communications	Single Entry - TV
Carol	Chowking Food Corp.	Chowking	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
Mother's Day	Unilever Phils.	Surf	"Lowe, Inc."	Single Entry - TV
Noel	Chowking Food Corp.	Chowking	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
Hanapbuhay	Unilever Phils.	Surf	"Lowe, Inc."	Single Entry - TV
Nest	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Recycle Ad	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Earth	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Recycle Ad	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Tree	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Recycle Ad	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
The Sign/2nd Sign/3rd Sign	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson	Single Medium Campaign - Radio
Earth/Tree/Nest	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Recycle Ad	McCann-Erickson	Single Medium Campaign - Print
Bed	Childhope Asia Phils.	Childhope	BBDO Guerrero Ortega	Single Entry - TV
Dining	Childhope Asia Phils	Childhope	BBDO Guerrero Ortega	Single Entry - TV
Manila/Standee	Children's Hour	Children's Hour	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Beautiful Eyes	Eyebank Foundation	Eyebank Foundation	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Omnibus	Childhope Asia Phils.	Childhope	BBDO Guerrero Ortega	Single Entry - TV
Anak Ng	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Piglets	Concordia Children's Services	Concordia	Y&R Phils.	Single Entry - Print
Eyelashes	Eyebank Foundation	Eyebank Foundation	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Ambient
Cat Dreams	PAWS	PAWS	JWT Manila	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient

SILVER

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency	Medium
Parol	Jollibee Foods Corp.	Jollibee	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
UK	Procter & Gamble Phils.	Tide	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Ligaw	Monde Nissin Corp	Graham Biscuits	"Lowe, Inc."	Single Entry - TV
Embrace	Unilab	Ceelin	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
Dorothy	PLDT	PLDT	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - TV
Tulong Aral	Petron Corp.	Petron	"Lowe, Inc."	Single Entry - TV
Battlecry	"Golden ABC, Inc."	Penshoppe	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Heroes	PNB	PNB	J. Romero & Associates	Single Entry - TV
Emiko	PS Bank	PS Bank	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Home	Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils.	Coca-Cola	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Wish	The Coca-Cola Export Corp.	Coca-Cola	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Healing	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.	McDonald's	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Car	Federal Phoenix Assurance Co.	Federal Phoenix	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - TV
Cherry	PS Bank	PS Bank	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Exodus	Lamoiyan Corp.	Hapee Toothpaste	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - TV
Popoy	Monde Nissin Corp.	Lucky Me	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
Polo 2	Procter & Gamble Phils.	Tide	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Warpaint	Wyeth Phils.	Bonakid	Adformatix	Single Entry - TV
Daan	Meralco	Meralco	Publicis Manila	Single Entry - TV
The Sign	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Krus	PILTEL	Talk 'n Text Pasa Load	Draft FCB	Single Entry - Print
Socket	Smart Communications	Addict Mobile	Draft FCB	Single Entry - Print
Rizal Day	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Obey	"Golden ABC, Inc."	Penshoppe	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Print
Boni	The Boots Company Phils.	Strepsils	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Filing Cabinet	Pioneer Insurance	Pioneer	Harrison Communications	Single Entry - Print
Knock	Pioneer Insurance	Pioneer	Harrison Communications	Single Entry - Print
Forbidden	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Ambient
Boss	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Ambient
Sermon	San Carlos Seminary	Project Priest	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Ambient
Tutulungan Kita	Radyo Veritas 846	Radyo Veritas 846	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - Ambient
Obey	"Golden ABC, Inc."	Penshoppe	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Ambient
Cellphone/Bully/Graffiti	Jollibee Foods Corp.	Jollibee	McCann-Erickson	Single Medium Campaign - TV
Touch	Johnson & Johnson Phils.	Johnson's Baby Oil	"Lowe, Inc."	Single Medium Campaign - TV
Rediscover Campaign	Manila North Luzon Tollways Corp.	NLE	J. Romero & Associates	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient
Everbest	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN CCM	Multimedia Campaign
I See God	Hands on Manila	Hands on Manila	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Magician	Pondo ng Pinoy	Pondo ng Pinoy	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - TV
Wealth	Haribon Foundation	Biodiversity	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - TV
Christ	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
Aviation	Ad Foundation	Filipino Invest	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Child Abuse	Children's Lab	Children's Lab	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - TV
Vanishing	UNDP	UNDP	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - TV
French	Ad Foundation	Filipino Invest	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Wika	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
Draw/50	Children's Hour	Children's Hour	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Speaker	ABC 5	ABC 5	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Dylan	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.	McDonald's	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Countdown	NCRFW	Kababaihan	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Better Place	Pondo ng Pinoy	Pondo ng Pinoy	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - TV
Chess	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
In My Day	Caritas Manila	Pondo ng Pinoy	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Hands	Pondo ng Pinoy	Pondo ng Pinoy	Aspac Advertising	Single Entry - TV
Fishbone	UP Population Institute	UP Population Inst.	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
DVD	Music One Corp.	Tower Records	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - TV
Istorya	NCRFW	Kababaihan	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Everest/Wagi	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
Parking	Philippine Star	Philippine Star	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Flicker	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN	ABS-CBN CCM	Single Entry - TV
Sampu	DOLE	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
Footloose	Metro Magazine	Metro Magazine	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - TV
Smoking	Philippine Star	Philippine Star	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Bottle	Philippine Star	Philippine Star	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - TV
Bahay Ku Po	Hope Worldwide	Hope Worldwide	Y&R Phils.	Single Entry - Radio
Whale	Haribon Foundation	Haribon Foundation	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - Radio
Roll Call	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Pangarap	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Mike	TBWA/SMP	Buwan ng Wika	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
Pinaka	Haribon Foundation	Biodiversity	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - Radio
Boothbeeth	TBWA/SMP	Linggo ng Wika	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
"My Toes, My Knees"	Phil Association of Nutrition	Phil Association of Nutrition	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
Seen 1	Eyebank Foundation	Eyebank Foundation	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
Colors	Reef Check Phils	Coral Reef Conservation	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - Radio
Saging	Mindanao Comm. on Women	Mindanao Comm. On Women	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
Collision	Nissan Motors Phils.	Nissan	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Print
Trees	Greenpeace	Greenpeace	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Print
Russian Doll	Pro-Life Phils.	Non-Gov't Org	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Print
Doll	UNICEF	Pangako sa Pangarap	BCD PinPoint	Single Entry - Print
Paddle	Upsilon	Upsilon	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Print
Pier	DSWD	Anti-Child Labor	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Wall	Nissan Motors Phils.	Nissan	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Print
Bisikleta	DSWD	Anti-Child Labor	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Ilog	DSWD	Anti-Child Labor	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Where In The World	WWF Phils.	WWF	BCD PinPoint	Single Entry - Print
Smokers	Phil Cancer Society	Phil. Cancer Society	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - Print
Hot Pinay	DDB Cares/Phil. Star	DDB Cares/Phil. Star	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - Print
Bagyo	The Coca-Cola Export Corp.	Coca-Cola Foundation	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Palo	The Coca-Cola Export Corp.	Coca-Cola Foundation	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Polaroid	UNICEF	Pangako sa Pangarap	BCD PinPoint	Single Entry - Print
Fishbone	UP Population Institute	UP Population Inst.	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Ambient
Trees	Greenpeace	Greenpeace	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Ambient
Russian Doll	Pro-Life Phils.	Non-Gov't. Org.	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
Shave	Project Brave Kids	Project Brave Kids	141 Worldwide	Single Entry - Ambient
Newstand	Childhope/Goodwill	Childhope	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - Ambient
Relationships (Calendar)	Petron Corp.	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs	Single Entry - Direct
Buhay Kapuso	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Medium Campaign - TV
Pangarap/Roll Call/Anak Ng	ReachOut Foundation	Family Planning	McCann-Erickson	Single Medium Campaign - Radio
Piggy Series	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Newspaper Drive	Harrison Communications	Single Medium Campaign - Print
Puzzle Series	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Newspaper Drive	Harrison Communications	Single Medium Campaign - Print
If Only	UNICEF	UNICEF	BCD PinPoint	Single Medium Campaign - Print
Tears	"Pfizer, Inc."	Visine Refresh	Blue Bottle	Single Medium Campaign - Print
Working Moms	Working Mom Magazine	Working Mom Mag	Campaigns & Grey	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient
Doormat	Teodora	Teodora	DDB Phils	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient

BRONZE

Title	Advertiser	Product	Agency	Medium
Old & New	Manila North Luzon Tollways Corp.	NLE	J. Romero & Associates	Single Entry - TV
Piyo	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.	All Time Treats McFlurry	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - TV
Bayan	Caltex Phils.	Caltex Delo	Y&R Phils.	Single Entry - TV
MMDA	"Global Brands, Inc."	Vulca Seal	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Glowing Inside	Unilever Phils.	Vaseline Shampoo	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Kasangga	Innove Communications	Touch Mobile	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
First Born	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.	All Time Treats Hotcake	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - TV
Kasal	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications	Single Entry - TV
Surgery	Meralco	Meralco	Publicis Manila	Single Entry - TV
Empowered	Unilever Phils.	Sunsilk	JWT Manila	Single Entry - TV
Snatcher	"Global Brands, Inc."	Vulca Seal	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
R&B	Nestle Phils.	Maggi Sinigang sa Miso	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Flower Girl	Unilever Phils.	Vaseline Shampoo	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
MRT	BPI Family Savings Bank	BPI Family Savings Bank	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Birthday Ko Ngayon	Nestle Phils.	Maggi Spaghetti	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Bitin	Nestle Phils.	Nescafe Classic	Publicis Manila	Single Entry - TV
Twing	San Miguel Corp.	Purefoods Fiesta Ham	JimenezBasic	Single Entry - TV
Bulaga	"Golden Donuts, Inc."	Dunkin' Donuts	J. Romero & Associates	Single Entry - Radio
Yabangan	Manila North Luzon Tollways Corp.	NLE	J. Romero & Associates	Single Entry - Radio
Gregorian Chant	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.	McDonald's Fish n' Rice	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - Radio
Fastfood	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp.	McDonald's	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - Print
EDSA	The Boots Company Phils.	Strepsils	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Ninoy	Phil. Daily Inquirer	PDI Ninoy	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Valentines	The Coca-Cola Export Corp.	Coca-Cola	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Priest	"A. Tung Chingco Trading, Inc."	Ligo Sardines	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - Print
Meron Ka	Johnson & Johnson Phils.	Modess	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Print
Meat	Universal Robina Corp.	Nissin Cup Noodles	Campaigns & Grey	Single Entry - Print
Skulls	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications	Single Entry - Print
Not Your Last Supper	Golden Arches Dev't. Corp	McDonald's	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - Print
Lean On Me	Procter & Gamble Phils.	Perla	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - Print
Kasal	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications	Single Entry - Print
Fast	PLDT	PLDT	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - Print
Mother's Day	3D Industries	3D	Y&R Phils.	Single Entry - Print
Editorial	"Global Brands, Inc."	Vulca Seal	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - Print
Lobo	"Global Brands, Inc"	Vulca Seal	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - Print
Black & White	Music One Corp.	Tower Records	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
Bus Stop	Schering Plough Corp.	Coppertone	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
Rod	Music One Corp.	Tower Records	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
Carlo	Schering Plough Corp.	Coppertone	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
Pool	Schering Plough Corp.	Coppertone	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
White	Music One Corp.	Tower Records	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Entry - Ambient
BPI Expat Pinoy	BPI	BPI Expat Pinoy	n/a	Single Entry - Direct
Advocacy Campaign	Manila North Luzon Tollways Corp	NLE	J. Romero & Associates	Single Medium Campaign - TV
Safety Campaign	Manila North Luzon Tollways Corp.	NLE	J. Romero & Associates	Single Medium Campaign - Radio
Tiendesitas 2005 Campaign	Ortigas & Co. Ltd. Partnership	Tiendesitas	J. Romero & Associates	Single Medium Campaign - Print
Battlecry	"Golden ABC, Inc."	Penshoppe	TBWA/SMP	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient
Fragile	HSBC	HSBC	141 Worldwide	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient
POD	Music One Corp.	Tower Records	DM9JaymeSyfu	Single Medium Campaign - Ambient
Heroes Campaign	PNB	PNB	J. Romero & Associates	Multimedia Campaign
Tapat sa Pag-Ibig	Pag-Ibig Fund	Pag-Ibig Fund	"Admix, Inc."	Multimedia Campaign
Walang Makakalusot	"Global Brands, Inc."	Vulca Seal	Leo Burnett	Multimedia Campaign
Alay	The Boots Company Phils.	Boots Healthcare	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - TV
Heaven & Earth	Caltex Phils.	Caltex	Y&R Phils.	Single Entry - TV
Mentor	Caltex Phils.	Caltex	Y&R Phils.	Single Entry - TV
Bra	ABS-CBN	ABS CBN	ABS-CBN CCM	Single Entry - TV
No Agenda	GMA News & Public Affairs	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
4PINAS	GMA News & Public Affairs	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Entry - TV
Waiter	Caritas Manila	Caritas	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Bars	Caritas Manila	Caritas	Leo Burnett	Single Entry - TV
Skulls	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications	Single Entry - TV
Reyster's Malaria Advisory	Aliw Broadcasting	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	"Hip TV, Inc."	Single Entry - Radio
Superwoman	NCRFW	Kababaihan	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
Ka Ching	DZMM	Linggo ng Wika	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Radio
Magkano	DSWD	DSWD	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Journalist	ABC 5	ABC 5	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Radio
Age	DSWD	DSWD	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Analogy (Skulls)	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications	Single Entry - Radio
Shaod	DSWD	DSWD	McCann-Erickson	Single Entry - Radio
Ursula (Skulls)	Pfizer Global Pharmaceutical	Pfizer Corporate	AB Communications	Single Entry - Print
Pasko	DDB Cares/Phil. Star	DDB Cares/Phil. Star	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - Print
City of Blind and Deaf	Teodora/MB/Rapp Collins	Teodora/MB/Rapp Collins	DDB Phils.	Single Entry - Print
Pito	Gabriela	Gabriela	Ace Saatchi & Saatchi	Single Entry - Print
Linggo ng Wika	Globe Telecom	Globe Gentext	Harrison Communications	Single Entry - Print
Bra	HSBC	HSBC	141 Worldwide	Single Entry - Print
Scooby	PAWS	PAWS	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Ambient
Padyak	Coca-Cola Company	Coca-Cola	141 Worldwide	Single Entry - Ambient
Baras	Coca-Cola Company	Coca-Cola	141 Worldwide	Single Entry - Ambient
Plates	Klima	Klima	TBWA/SMP	Single Entry - Ambient
Cat Dreams 5	PAWS	PAWS	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Ambient
Cat Dreams 1	PAWS	PAWS	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Ambient
Cat Dreams 2	PAWS	PAWS	JWT Manila	Single Entry - Direct
Relationships (Collateral)	Petron Corp.	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs	Single Entry - Direct
Brushstrokes	Petron Corp.	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs	Single Entry - Direct
Harvest	Petron Corp.	Art Petron	Studio 5 Designs	Single Entry - Direct
Christmas Box	141 Worldwide	Brave Kids	141 Worldwide	Single Medium Campaign - TV
Mdrill/Mtulay/Mlambe	GMA Network	GMA Network	GMA Creative Services	Single Medium Campaign - Radio
Sahod/Magkano/Age	DSWD	DSWD	McCann-Erickson	Single Medium Campaign - Radio

HOSTS

IYA VILLANIA
DEREK RAMSAY
BIANCA GONZALEZ

PERFORMERS

FRENCHIE DY
SANDWICH
GLOC 9
TUTTI OF PROTEINSHAKE
NEY OF 6 CYCLEMIND
26K DANCERS
JOEY AYALA
GRACE NONO
PINIKPIKAN
SUGAR HICCUP
HALILI-CRUZ EARTH BALLET DANCERS
BITUIN ESCALANTE
DONG ABAY
MANOUEVERS
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA
AKAFELLAS
KARL ROY
KEVIN ROY
HAJJI ALEJANDRO
ALI ALEJANDRO
JOANNA GO
THE DAWN

PRESENTERS

JOHN MANALO
FRANK GARCIA
CHESKA GARCIA
GEMMAE CUSTODIO
LOUGEE, RITCHIE, AND ALI OF MOJOFLY
G TEONGI
KATRICE DELOS REYES
MICCO SOLAMO
MS. MARICEL LAXA-PANGILINAN
CELINE LIM
DENNIS TRILLO
CHARISSE & CHARLOTTE HERMOSO
JANUARY ISAAC
MAKISIG MORALES
KC ABOLOC
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ANGELINA YSABEL MONTANO
CESAR MONTANO
SUNSHINE CRUZ
POCHOLO GUTIERREZ
HEART EVANGELISTA
AIRA ACLAN
MS. GRETCHEN BARETTO

WITH THE SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF:

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MS. GINA LOPEZ
MS. ZSA ZSA PADILLA
PIOLO PASCUAL
VINA MORALES
KIM CHIU
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MAJA SALVADOR
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2006 AVA People's Choice Award

ARAW 1	**Chowking**	**"Carol"**
ARAW 2	**Globe**	**"Gold"**
ARAW 3	**Surf**	**"Hanapbuhay"**
ARAW 4	**Jollibee**	**"Mamang"**
ARAW 5	**Surf**	**"Mother's Day"**
ARAW 6	**Chowking**	**"Noel"**

MECHANICS:
Text **ARAW <# of yourchoice>/<name>/<age>** and send to **2331** for Globe, TM & Sun Cellular subscribers 231 for Smart, Talk N' Text & Addict Mobile subscribers
Ex. ARAW 1/Piolo Pascual/25
P2.50/txt for Globe, TM, Smart, Talk N' Text & Addict Mobile subscribers P2.00/txt for Sun Cellular subscribers

*Voting period starts on January 20 and ends on February 3, 2007 at 12 Noon.

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Lascuña targets major payday in Pakistan Open

KARACHI—TONY LASCUÑA, THE only Filipino survivor of this year's Asian Tour qualifying, underscored his worth by shooting a five-under-par 67 Saturday to climb to a share of fifth place after three rounds of the Pakistan Open.

With earlier rounds of 70-69, the dusky Filipino posted a 54-hole total of 10-under 206 like India's Digvijay Singh to line himself up for a major payday in the $300,000 opening leg of the Asian Tour at the Karachi Golf Club.

Lascuña and Singh, who had a 66, stood only a stroke behind the fourth-running Muhammad Shabbir after the Pakistani submitted another 67 for a 205 total.

Of the four other Filipinos who survived the halfway cut, Artemio Murakami proved steadiest with a one-under 213 after rounds of 72-72-69 that kept him in an 11-way tie for 33rd place.

Gerard Rosales stood at 1-under 215 (71-73-71) followed by Jerome Delariarte at 216 (69-73-74) and Marciano Pucay at 218 (71-73-74).

Malaysia's Airil Rizman Zahari grabbed the lead with a sizzling 64 that boosted him in front by three strokes with a 199 total over Australian Scott Hend and Stewart Hurd of England.

Hend fired a 66 and Hurd carded a 69 and shared second at 202.

Lascuna gained outright entry in all legs of the Asian Tour this year after tying for 17th place among 44 who hurdled the qualifying tournament in Thailand last month.

Sorenstam says newspaper missed point

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—ANNIKA SORENSTAM SAID A SWEDISH newspaper took out of context her plans to quit golf and have children. "I am not announcing my retirement and I am not announcing the start of a family," Sorenstam said Friday. "I am very much looking forward to the start of the 2007 season and the various business ventures that I've become involved in." She issued a statement through her agent, Mark Steinberg of IMG, because both were inundated with calls about a story in Aftonbladet that quoted the Swedish star as saying, "I'm pretty tired of golf. I want to have kids, and if we decide to do that, the time is now and I probably can't combine that with a golf career." The 36-year-old Sorenstam is dating Mike McGee, a golf agent and son of former US touring pro Jerry McGee. *AP*

Sharapova, Hingis score

Nadal, Clijsters take easy route to fourth round

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—IT WAS JUST like old times for Martina Hingis.

Rallies with an opponent who didn't have much of the power that dominates tennis today gave the former retiree plenty of opportunities Saturday to hone her game as she reached the fourth round of the Australian Open.

Hingis' 6-2, 6-1 victory over Japan's Aiko Nakamura came on a day when Maria Sharapova, Kim Clijsters, Rafael Nadal and Nikolay Davydenko raced to quick victories and rain limited play to the two show courts, where the roofs were closed.

Nadal, who has played all three of his matches with the roof closed, jokingly took credit for easing Melbourne's long drought.

"I come with the rain," the second-seeded Spaniard said after beating No. 31 Stanislas Wawrinka 6-2, 6-2, 6-2. "I was in Majorca, and it was raining a lot, and the rain came back with me."

Eighth-seeded David Nalbandian struggled again, rallying for the second time from two sets down—and triple match point—to oust France's Sebastien Grosjean, 5-7, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-1. Davydenko needed only two hours to beat Fabrice Santoro.

Sixth-seeded Hingis and No. 4 Clijsters have had a friendly rivalry going to see who can get off court fastest in the women's draw. Clijsters won for the third straight time, by two minutes in finishing off Alona Bondarenko, 6-2, 6-2, in exactly an hour.

Hingis considers the Rod Laver Arena a second home after winning three of her five Grand Slam titles at Melbourne Park in 1997-99 and reaching the final the next three years. She returned here in 2006 at the start of her comeback from a three-year retirement.

Just as players can feed off fan frenzy, the rapid routs left the crowd unusually flat. Humidity from a breakdown in the air conditioning also sapped the energy of players and fans alike.

"It was just a very strange feeling to be out there today," Hingis said. "The atmosphere was a little different from usual excitement, what you expect here. I think the crowd sometimes didn't really have that much to clap for."

The conditions were an improvement for Sharapova, who broiled in the sun for three hours in her first match. Still, the lack of air conditioning had her dripping with sweat before the warmups were over.

"It was a little steamy in there, humid," top-seeded Sharapova said after beating No. 30 Tathiana Garbin 6-3, 6-1. "I've felt cozier in my life." *AP*

Fight erupts as Pistons trip Wolves

MINNEAPOLIS—CHAUNCEY BILLUPS scored 25 points and had eight assists as the Detroit Pistons ground out a gritty 104-98 double overtime road win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Friday, in a game that featured two ejections.

Billups, who nailed a three-pointer in the dying seconds of the first overtime to force an extra period, outscored Minnesota 13-7 in the final frame to secure victory.

The game was briefly halted by an angry altercation between Kevin Garnett of the Timberwolves and Antonio McDyess of the Pistons in the fourth quarter.

Both players were handed technical fouls and ejections after they nearly came to blows, but team mates and officials separated them before any punches could be exchanged.

The Pistons won for just the fourth time in their past 12 games, while the Timberwolves lost for just the fifth time in their last 15.

Richard Hamilton had 26 points for Detroit to lead all scorers, while Rasheed Wallace added 18 points and nine rebounds. Chris Webber, in his second game since joining his hometown Pistons, contributed 16 points and seven rebounds.

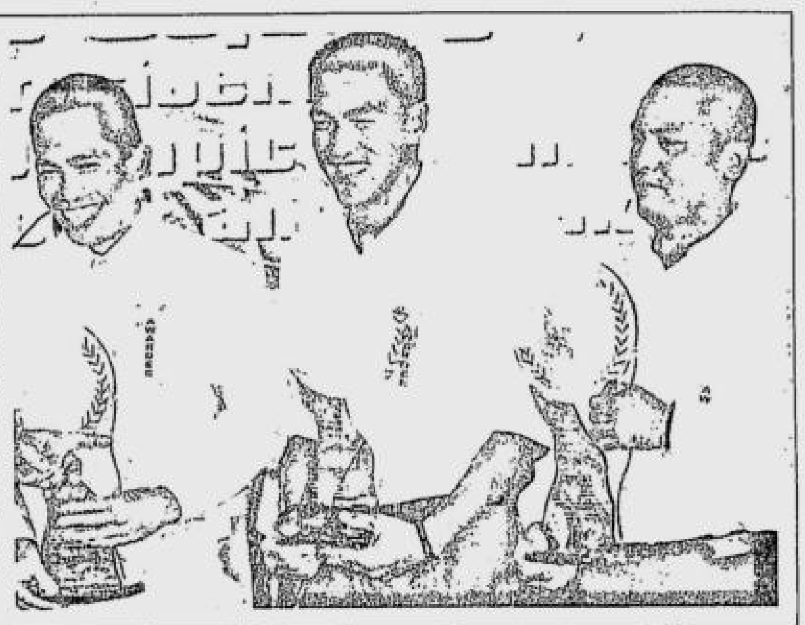
Mark Blount had 22 points and 15 rebounds to lead the T-Wolves, who have rebounded after a sluggish start to the season.

Garnett hauled down 19 rebounds and had 14 points before his ejection. *Reuters*

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS

(Home team in all caps)

Utah 102, TORONTO 94; PHILADELPHIA 98, Miami 95 (OT); Washington 114, ORLANDO 93; Sacramento 96, BOSTON 91; New Jersey 101, NY KNICKS 100; Charlotte, 96 ATLANTA 75; SAN ANTONIO 99, N.O./Oklahoma City 86; Detroit 104, MINNESOTA 98 (2OT); PHOENIX 106, Portland 101; DENVER 110, Cleveland 99; SEATTLE 99 Milwaukee 72



SCALING NEW HEIGHTS Romy Garduce (left), Leo Oracion (middle) and Pastor Emata receive the PSA President's award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association for literally taking the country to new heights—the Mt. Everest Summit. **ERIK ARAZAS**

SPORTSWATCH

DLSU Batch '82 holds golfest

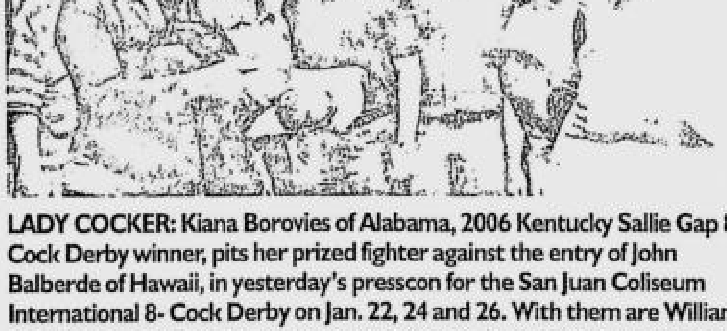
THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY (DLSU) SILVER JUBILARIAN CLASS OF 1982 invites La Salle alumni and friends for the 4th Br. Benedict Golf Cup on Feb. 27 at the North Course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Competitors will be divided into five divisions—A, B, C, D and E, as well as Ladies, Senior's and Open. Registration is open with an entry fee of P2,400, inclusive of green fees and customized bags. Tournament chair Ferdie Atendido said even those without handicaps can join. For info, call 523-6158 or 526-5612 (John Ranjo).

Roligon derby draws 400 entries

ABOUT 400 COCKERS AND BREEDERS MEET AT ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT AS the RMC 17th anniversary 6-cock derby sizzles on Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3, 5 and 7. Keenly awaited by cockers and gamefowl breeders every year, this event dangles a guaranteed prize of P4 million. Last year's event, also hosted by promoter Rolly Ligon, attracted 429 entries. Entry fee is P11,000. Participants who will score two points in the elimination rounds (2-cock) on Jan. 30, Feb. 1 and 3 will share in the P100,000 day prize. Semifinal and final rounds unfold on Feb. 5 and 7, respectively. The fastest win champion (based on last two fights in the championship round) will receive P500,000 while his handler gets P100,000.

Cainta cockfest unreels Jan. 25

NO LESS THAN P320,000 IN GUARANTEED PRIZE AWAITS WINNERS IN THE fastest win One-Cock Ulutan on Jan. 25 at Cainta Fair Center Coliseum. The fastest win champion, who gets P30,000, will be selected every ten fights. CFCC's Pabuenas 5-Cock Smalltime Derby sizzles on Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 5, 7, 9 and 12. According to host and CFCC operator Sam Mendoza, entry fee is P3,300 though the total guaranteed prize is P1million. For reservation of cockhouses, call 655-3334, 240-0979 or 0928–6316711 (Arnold) and 0915–5656100 (Doc Jovy).



LADY COCKER: Kiana Borovies of Alabama, 2006 Kentucky Sallie Gap 8-Cock Derby winner, pits her prized fighter against the entry of John Balberde of Hawaii, in yesterday's presscon for the San Juan Coliseum International 8- Cock Derby on Jan. 22, 24 and 26. With them are William Go, Raymond Velayo, Jorge Torres of California, Bryan Corkren of Alabama, Joseph Toralba of Lousiana, Sonny Lagon and James Campbell of Ohio.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Tucker Pride (2), Mr. Xavier (5), Twining Honour (6), Decent Proposal (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—House Of Riches (5), Concorde (6), Best Strike (3), Ole!Ole!Ole! (2)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Romantical (7), Honestly (6), Amazing Jel (4), Sun Coast (2), Market Leader (5)
Race 4—(Tri)—Stop Talking (2), Big Deb (1), Madam Cognac (5)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Take Ten (9), King Aljhun (6), Shifty (1), Ocean Cookie (2), Britney's Magic (7)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (6), Bingbong (8), Lovable Trisha (4), Firehouse/Silver Eagle (1), Ancestral Home (3), Whistle Blower (2)
Race 7—(Tri)—Manhattan (5), Ocean Deep (1), Air Force One (2)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Magic Dancer (1), Selectee (2), Latin Music (9), Pure Energy (8), Besame Mucho (7)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Mojito (5), Our Sailor Moon (6), Virginia (4), Deputy Stravinsky (3)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—War Hero (5), Strong Jays (7), Stream Time/Time Enchanted (4), Calvin's Magic (1)
Race 11—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Striker (6), Iron Tower (9), Lord Brian (1), Alam Mo Na Yan (4), Virgin Hill (2), Ideal Gaze (6)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Daddy's Girl (6), Courage Heart (4), Gutsy (2), She Boom (8), Tanging Ikaw (7)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Grand Fiesta (2), Friendly Fire (8), Raven (5), Carbon Copy (3), Miss Vicky (6), Chabacana (10)

Champs collision up today

THE MANGIMA OFF-road track hosts the showdown among the country's top off-roaders when the 4x4 Battle of the Champions flags off today in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

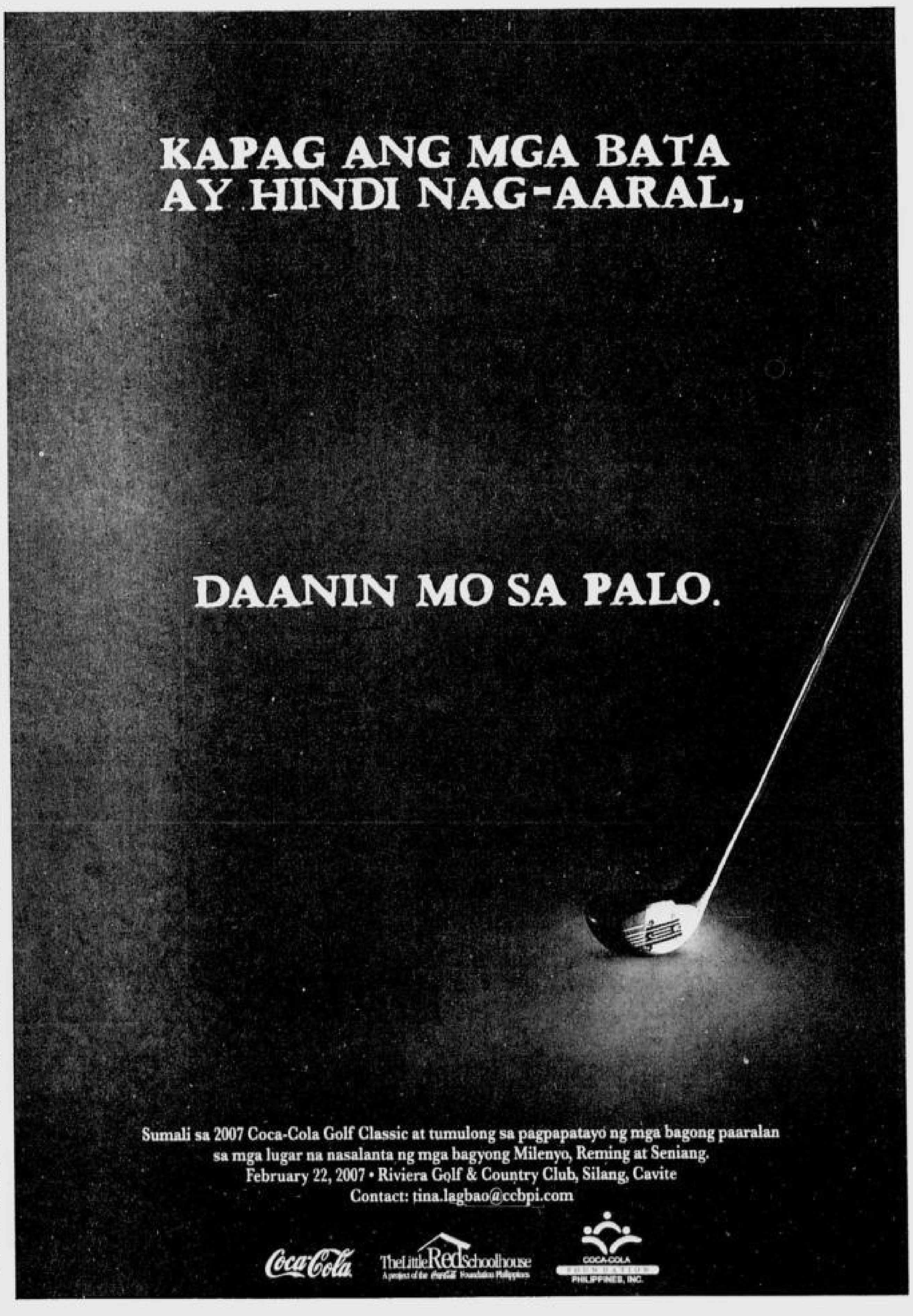
The top five winners of the 2006 Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao 4x4 are set to face off for the Philippine 4x4 Driver of the Year title.

Representing Luzon are Noel Bartolome Jr. of Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines, Kiko Cruz of Santa Rosa Off-Roaders, Cocoy Ramos of Balayan 4x4 Club, as well as Lucy Sy and MJ Mendoza of Land Cruiser Club of the Philippines.

The Visayas, meanwhile, will field Kim Ramirez of Tanjay Off-Road Club, Bambi Bernales of 4x4 Fun Club-Leyte, Jerry Lanoy and Gerry Doyon of Ormoc 4-Wheelers, and Fred Juanico of Kanbankalan Off-Roaders.

Carrying the banner for Mindanao are Dondon Ramos of Team Malaybalay, Bong Moreno of the 4x4 Fun Club, Reynan Jayme and Dante Ravelo of Waig Adventure Team, and Ercel Canque of 4x4 Davao.

The event is sponsored by Petron Rev-X and Petron Diesel Max and supported by the LGU of Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, headed by Mayor Socorro O. Acosta.


KAPAG ANG MGA BATA AY HINDI NAG-AARAL,
DAANIN MO SA PALO.
Sumali sa 2007 Coca-Cola Golf Classic at tumulong sa pagpapatayo ng mga bagong paaralan sa mga lugar na nasalanta ng mga bagyong Milenyo, Reming at Seniang.
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Girard, Prieto shine in Fore benefit golf

AMERICAN DUANE GIRARD, A WALK-in golfer from Hawaii, captured the overall net championship of the Fore the Child! benefit golf tournament organized recently by the Child Protection Unit Network (CPU Net) in partnership with Smart Infinity at the Wack Wack Golf Club.

Alex Prieto of the INQUIRER emerged as the men's Class A champion, Richard Limgenco topped men's Class B, Cleto Guerrero ruled men's Class C and Ms Chony Santos bagged the Ladies' championship.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, former President Fidel V. Ramos, and fundraising chair Ms Maribel Ongpin hit the ceremonial ball to launch the tournament which raised funds for the projects of the Child Protection Unit, including the funding of the 7th Asian Regional Conference of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) on Sept. 23-26 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

Hole sponsors included PNP Chief Oscar G. Calderon, TMS Shipping Agencies Inc., Landbank of the Philippines, Shell Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the INQUIRER, DHL WW Express, Crystal Sugar, International Container Terminal Services, Pagcor, Judy Jalbuena-Syjuco, Pediatrica, and lawyer Raoul Angangco.

The ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference, chaired by lawyer Katrina Legarda, Dr. Bernadette Madrid and Dr. Irene Baluyut, aims to bring together child protection specialists from abroad and learn from experiences of other professionals in different settings in the Asian region and around the world.

CPU Net and its partners, Smart Infinity, Philippine Airlines, UNICEF-Manila, Bantay Bata 166, the INQUIRER, Pfizer Phils, DSWD, the Philippine National Police, Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., the Child Justice League, Campaigns and Grey, Consuelo Foundation and Plan Phils. will sponsor government physicians, lawyers, police, social workers, and teachers who are the first to respond to abused and neglected children in the Philippines.

Magnolia needs 3 OTs to oust Kettle Korn

By Jasmine W. Payo

BONBON CUSTODIO AGAIN HAD LITTLE trouble knocking down shots.

Coming off a 19-point effort, Custodio exploded for 34 as Magnolia Ice Cream eliminated Kettle Korn-UST in triple overtime, 133-128, yesterday in the PBL Silver Cup at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym.

"It was good that Kettle Korn pushed us to the limit, I think we're ready for the next phase," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal.

The Spinners will battle fifth-ranked Henkel Sista in the second knockout phase on Thursday.

Sixth-seeded TeleTech and seventh placer Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala will collide in the other pairing.

The Spinners also drew huge efforts from Yousif Aljamal, who finished with 27 points and 13 rebounds, while Jeff Chan added 23 markers.

Nigerian center Sam Ekwe contributed 11 points—including seven in the first extension—on top of 20 rebounds and three blocks.

Kettle Korn-UST ended its maiden campaign winless in 11 games but not after giving Magnolia a big scare.

Pong Escobal rescued Magnolia in regulation by burying a triple with 2.4 seconds left to forge the first extra period at 86.

The Spinners seemed headed for a win after Custodio towed them to a seven-point lead, 108-101, with only 28.6 seconds left in overtime.

Before Custodio started heating up in the fourth period, the Spinners struggled early and fell behind by as many as 11 points, 26-37.

Aljamal sparked a Magnolia rally late in the second quarter for a 46-44 halftime advantage.

The Pop Kings played without coach Pido Jarencio, an assistant for San Miguel in the PBA.

The scores:

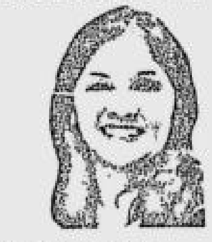
MAGNOLIA 133—Custodio 34, Aljamal 27, Chan 23, Ekwe 11, Escobal 9, Angeles 8, Menor 7, Rañeses 6, Jones 5, Villanueva 3, Gamalinda 0.

KETTLE KORN-UST 128—Evangelista 26, Duncil 22, Espiritu 20, Urbiztondo 14, Dizon 13, Taylor 12, Ababou 8, Dela Cruz 5, Cuan 5, Canlas 3.

Quarters: 26-35, 46-44, 59-59, 86-86 (reg), 109-109 (1OT), 122-122 (2OT), 133-128 (3OT)

ANTHONY Espirito, of Kettle Korn-UST grabs the rebound off a Magnolia player in yesterday's game. RODEL

Jinggoy's sacrifice



IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FOR SBP CHAIR SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA, the trip to Switzerland is certainly not a tourist's delight.

On the contrary, for him it is supreme sacrifice.

Imagine, after almost a whole day's flight from Manila to Hongkong to Geneva, Jinggoy and his group (SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan, PBA chairman Ricky Vargas and PBA commissioner Noli Eala), will only have a few hours to rest and grab a bite before they proceed to the Fiba office for the initial meeting with Fiba sec-gen Patrick Baumann.

Jinggoy can only attend the first meeting because he has to return to Manila immediately to catch the resumption of the Senate sessions tomorrow, Jan. 22.

He will have to leave Geneva even before he gets over the trauma of the long, turbulent flight he experienced getting to the beautiful city.

The voyage had been "so bumpy," thanks to a raging storm that hit Northern Europe, that Ricky said he was surprised they got to their destination "in one piece."

But at least the senator will have a few hours of sleep before he boards his flight to Manila.

* * *

Jinggoy said he has no choice but to leave the rest of his party behind to tie the final notches of their mission in Geneva.

Prior to the trip, Jinggoy informed us that he is the only senator left with a perfect attendance record in the Senate sessions.

He is determined to keep that record clean.

"*Sayang naman kung maga*-absent *pa ako*, considering that there are only nine sessions left," he said.

Well I hope, he doesn't fall asleep at the session hall of the Senate tomorrow.

* * *

Reli de Leon of Manny Pacquiao Promotions didn't expect his idea to materialize in such a short time. Only a few months ago, Reli had broached the concept of a "Freddie Roach Boxing Camp" here in the Philippines to Pacquiao's coach and trainer Freddie Roach, who immediately liked the idea.

"We look at the project as a kind of social obligation. Freddie, who considers the Philippines as his second home, would like to share his knowledge with Filipino trainers who, in turn, will impart this technology to his students. Who knows, the camp may be able to produce another Manny Pacquiao in our lifetime," Reli said.

Last week the Roach camp was launched at the 4th floor of the Body Worx Spa and Fitness Club situated at No. 33 West Avenue in Quezon City.

"The camp is also open to anybody interested to learn to box the Freddie Roach way," Reli said. "We were lucky to strike a partnership with the owner of the place, Kathy Lim Uy, who is an importer of boxing equipment."

According to Reli, Roach had agreed to come to Manila 6 to 8 times a year to oversee the operations of the camp.

Reli said that should not be a problem for Roach who flies to the country that often anyway to visit his Filipina fiancée in Davao.

Yup, Roach is still a bachelor, but probably not for long, according to Reli who urges those interested to join the camp to call 410-3866 or 378-9800.

* * *

HOOPVINE: As it turns out, Bobby Parks' son Rey is no stranger to the local basketball scene. About three years ago, he played for La Salle Greenhills in the Father Martin Cup, with the commitment that he would enroll there the following school year. He never did. Liza Elorde was most surprised when I informed her of the launching of the Freddie Roach camp along West Avenue which, as it turned out, is near the newly opened Elorde Boxing gym.

Orcollo meets Yang in P.5M 9-ball duel

TWO OF THE WORLD'S MOST feared pool players—Filipino Dennis Orcollo and Taiwanese Yang Chingshun—will finally cross paths in a two-day race-to-60 9-ball duel on April 20 to 22 tentatively set at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City.

Acknowledged as the best money game players in their respective countries, Orcollo and Yang have yet to meet in any match, official or not.

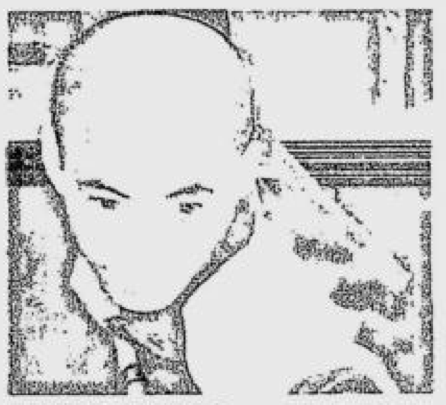
Orcollo and Yang have agreed to decide who really is the money game king when they dispute the $10,000 (P490,000) prize at stake.

"It's all about the money," said Perry Mariano, whose Bugsy Promotions is organizing the event in cooperation with Rocketman Enterprises.

Ramon "Mon" Tuason, head of Rocketman Enterprises and founding chair of the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA) said: "There is no element of luck in the race-to-60 battle between Yang and Orcollo. The better cue artist will win."

"More than the tournaments, it's the money game that is keeping the industry alive," said Mariano. "And Dennis and Yang are on the top of that ladder. We don't know yet who's better."

The 27-year-old Orcollo, the 2006 World Pool League Invitational titlist, has been making waves in the international money game scene, including the recent 2007 Derby City Classic in Kentucky, where he won a couple of nationally televised side events.



DENNIS ORCOLLO

YANG CHING-SUN

The 27-year-old Yang is a former two-time Asian Games gold medalist and SMB Asian 9-Ball Tour overall champion. But Yang has not won a major world tournament unlike compatriots Chao Fong-pang and Wu Chia-ching, who ruled the world championship tourney in 2000 and 2005, respectively.

Marlon Bernardino

Bill Shaw tourney attracts 256 teams

OVER 500 MEMBERS AND GUESTS REPRESENTING 256 two-man teams will play in the 18th Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic beginning Thursday at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East and West courses in Mandaluyong City. The players in the three-day annual event honoring club founder William J. Shaw, will be vying for holes-in-one and raffle prizes totaling more than P10 million, according to Wack Wack sports and games chair Pablo Soon. Headlining the hole-in-one prizes are a Chrysler 300C, a Toyota Fortuner, a Toyota Camry, two BMW 316s and three golf carts. Business class tickets for two (Manila to Eastcoast and vice versa) will be raffled off in case no one makes an ace. The grand raffle prize is an eight-day, seven-night Mexican Riviera Cruise with airline tickets. A ceremonial tee-off and cocktail party is set on Jan. 23 at Wack Wack's West Side Grill.

Senador, Garma share top spot

CEBU CITY—NATIONAL MASTER Emmanuel Senador drew with erstwhile solo leader IM Chito Garma in the sixth round and beat Carlo Magno Rosaupan in the seventh to move into a two-way tie for the lead in the 2007 Rep. Prospero PIchay Jr.-Sinulog Open chess championship at the Aznar Coliseum here Friday.

Senador, one of the country's strongest NMs with an Elo of 2382, swept his first four matches before drawing the fifth against fifth seed IM Ronald Bancod to put himself in the thick of the fight for the P50,000 top purse put by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) and Rose Pharmacy.

Senador is now tied for the lead with Garma, who also settled for a draw with Bancod in the sixth round.

Before the draws against Bancod and Senador, Garma racked up five wins to take the solo lead after the fifth round late Thursday.

Third seed IM Barlo Nadera subdued NM Wilfredo Neri and Peterson Sia in succession to move into contention with 5.5 points out of a possible seven in this event being held as part of the annual Sinulog celebrations.

Nadera, a native of Cebu City, is tied with Bancod and NMs Mirabeau Maga, Anthony Makinano and Efren Bagamasbad for third to seventh places.

Maga halved the point with veteran non-master Edmundo Gatus in the sixth round and trounced Cebu bet Voltaire Sevillano in the seventh round; Makinano crushed Ferdinand Leysa and then drew with Rhobel Legaspi; and Bagamasbad split the point with Francisco Abugo and beat Gatus.

Top seed IM Richard Bitoon and NM Elias Lao led a big group of players still within striking distance with five points.

Tournament director NM Cesar Caturla said the awarding ceremony will be held after the ninth and final round.

Invited to grace the awarding ceremony are Cong. Pichay, Bombi Aznar and chess patron Boojie Lim.

NCAA TENNIS: Former Davis Cup coach Jacinto "Butch" Bacani hits the ceremonial serve in yesterday's opening ceremony of the 82nd NCAA Tennis Tournament at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Others present at the affair are NCAA Management Committee members Fred Olano, Francisco Gusi Jr., Marlo Chavez, Fr. Paul de Vera, OSB, Bing Lozano, Cris Cayetano, Mike del Mundo and Benson Bocboc.

Wife defends IM Dableo

THE WIFE OF INTERNATIONAL MASTER Ronald Dableo yesterday denied recent reports that his husband dropped his game in favor of a grandmaster from Vietnam, who went on to win the 2006 Malaysian Open.

"*Hindi niya nagawa iyon* (he did not do what he's being accused of)," said Tara Jade Aurelio-Dableo, herself a former Palarong Pambansa chess player from Dumaguete.

Her denial came late because she said she did not want to bother Dableo, who was then playing in the Asian Zonals in Vietnam.

But she emphasized she would appeal for consideration from Rep. Prospero Pichay, the president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, who has ordered a probe on the so-called networking/game fixing scam in the sport.

According to news reports, Dableo agreed to drop his match while holding a winning position to GM Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam during the 2006 Malaysian Open in exchange for a big share from the winner's purse.

Dao went on to win the championship by virtue of a higher tiebreak point over Filipino IMs Oliver Dimakiling and Darwin Laylo. GM Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and IM Wynn Zaw Htun of Myanmar. The reports said Dableo got $1,600, or 40 percent of the $4,000 purse won by the Vietnamese champ.

"*Paano tumanggap ng* $1,600 *si* Ronald *eh ng umuwi nga siya dito wala siyang dalang pera* (Ronald did not have $1,600 when he came home)," said Tare Jade.

Also denying their involvement in game-fixing/networking were National Masters Mirabeau Maga, Alex Milagrosa, Dino Ballecer and Ferdinand Leysa, WNM Enerose Magno as well as the family of 12-year-old WNM-Christy Lamiel Bernales.

NCFP executive director Samuel Estimo had said that the board had strong evidence against Dableo, who is also being linked in game-fixing with GM Mark Paragua and Laylo in the last Tanauan Open.

NM Marlon Bernardino

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Empire built to last

Aboitiz group relies on strong family ties

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE CONGLOMERATE is now in the hands of the fourth generation of Aboitizes

THE ABOITIZ GROUP TRACES its beginnings to a fateful journey made over 100 years ago by a son of humble shepherds.

That journey took Paulino Aboitiz from Vizcaya in the Basque region of northern Spain to Leyte in Eastern Visayas, where he planted the seeds of what would become one of the country's biggest conglomerates with interests in power, banking, shipping, food, construction and real estate.

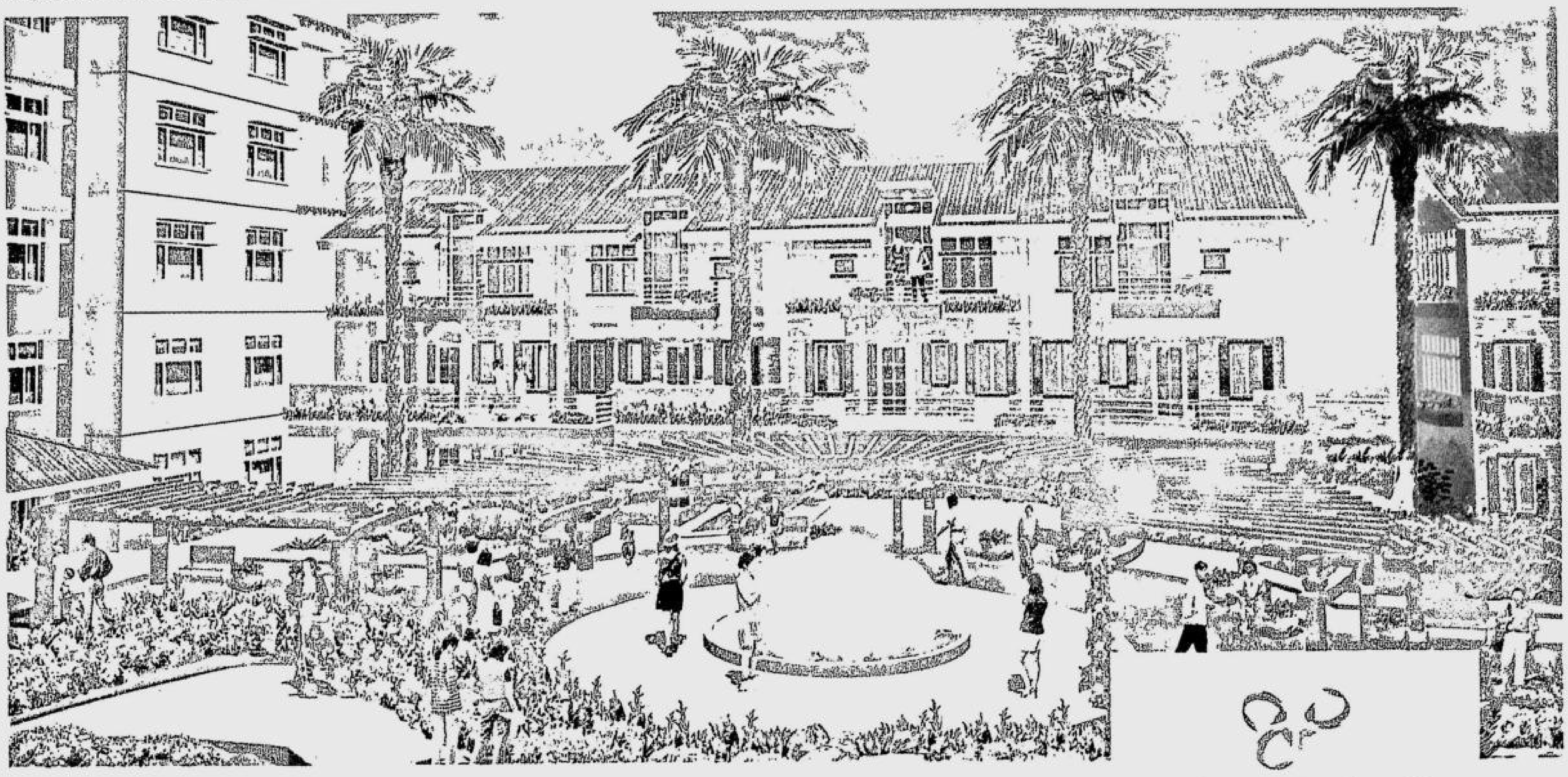
The reins of the group that Aboitiz founded are now in the hands of the fourth generation and they, like their fathers before them, never forgot the family's humble beginnings, and this has allowed them to fix their gaze firmly on a brighter future for the group.

Aboitiz group CEO Jon Ramon Aboitiz tells the INQUIRER in an interview at the company's Makati headquarters that unlike other family-run corporations, the Aboitiz group is not in the hands of siblings, but cousins.

This may pose a bigger challenge for other families to keep the family business intact, but not so for the Aboitizes who constantly work on keeping the family and the various businesses together.

"The closeness has always been emphasized by different generations and the values have

EMPIRE/ B2



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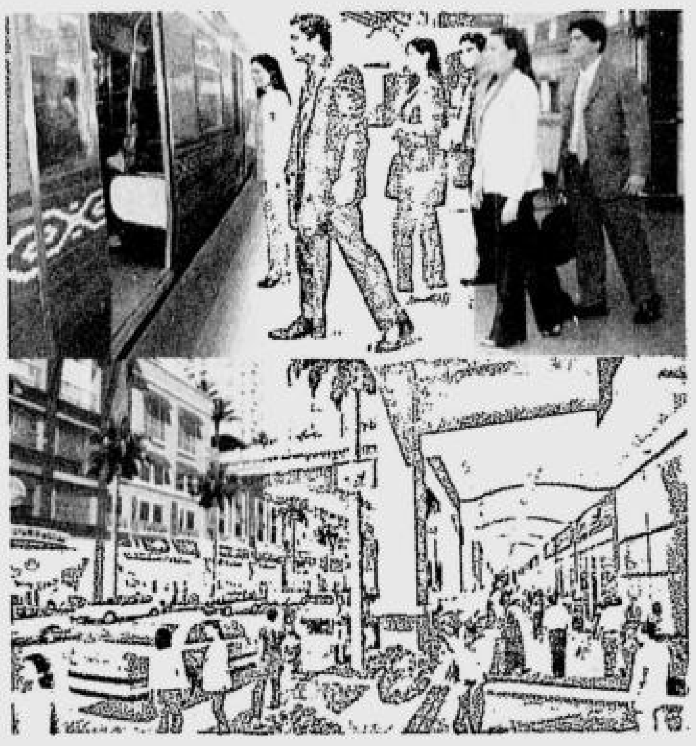

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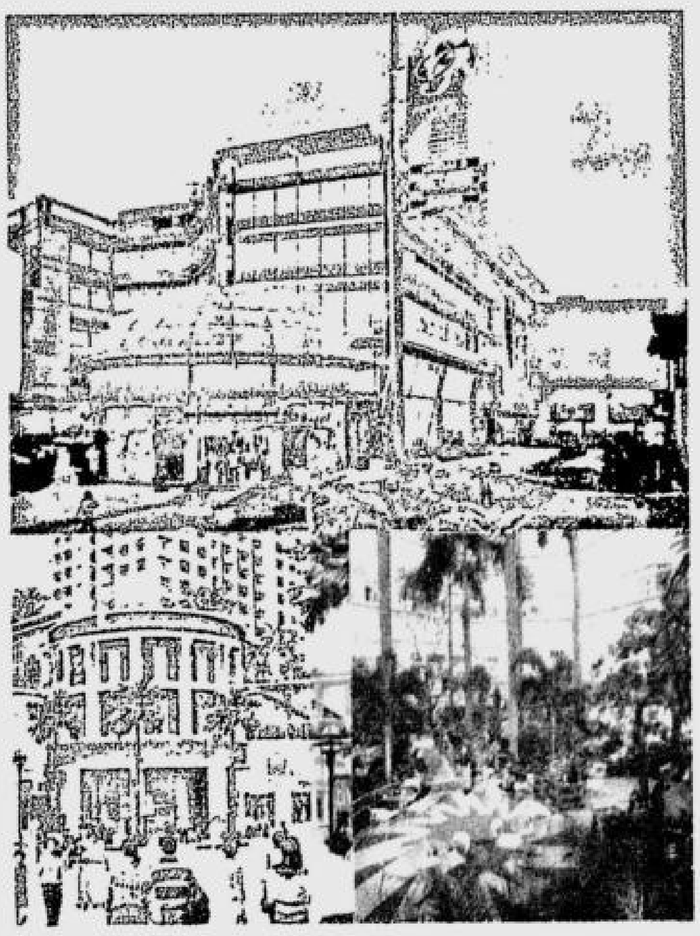

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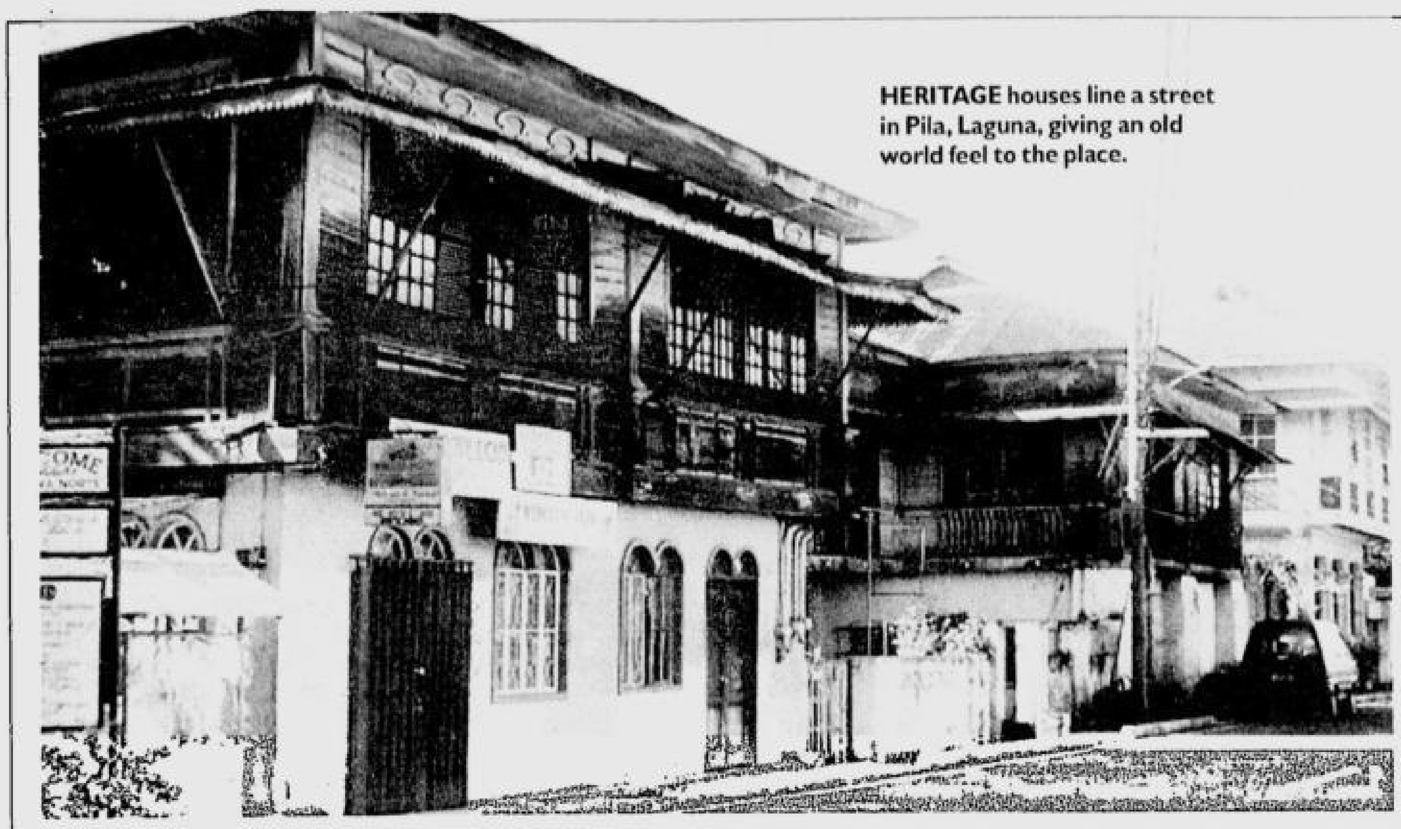
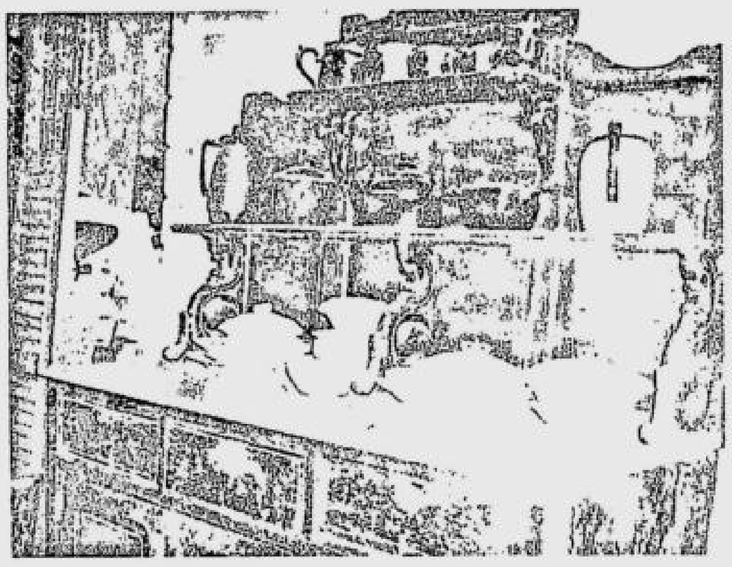


HERITAGE houses line a street in Pila, Laguna, giving an old world feel to the place.

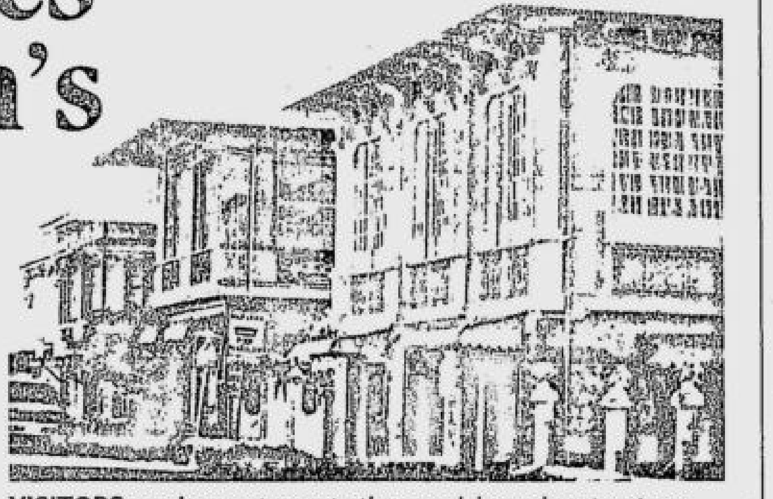
THE 200-year-old church in the town proper looks like it will stand for two centuries more.

Historic church, houses fill Laguna town's coffers

Text and Photos by Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon



A PIECE OF furniture that appears to be as old as time stands in a corner of Dr. Eden Relova's ancestral home.



VISITORS are drawn at once to the grand, imposing structures that are Pila's pride.

PILA, LAGUNA—THIS TOWN'S 35 heritage houses, along with its centuries-old church, have contributed a lot to the growth of its businesses and tourism industry, according to the Pila Historical Society Foundation.

Dr. Eden Relova, 86, a member of the PHSF and owner of one of the landmark houses, said this small town, 90 kilometers from Manila, became a popular tourist destination after the National Historical Institute declared its 35 old houses and a 200-year-old church as national historical landmarks on May 17, 2000.

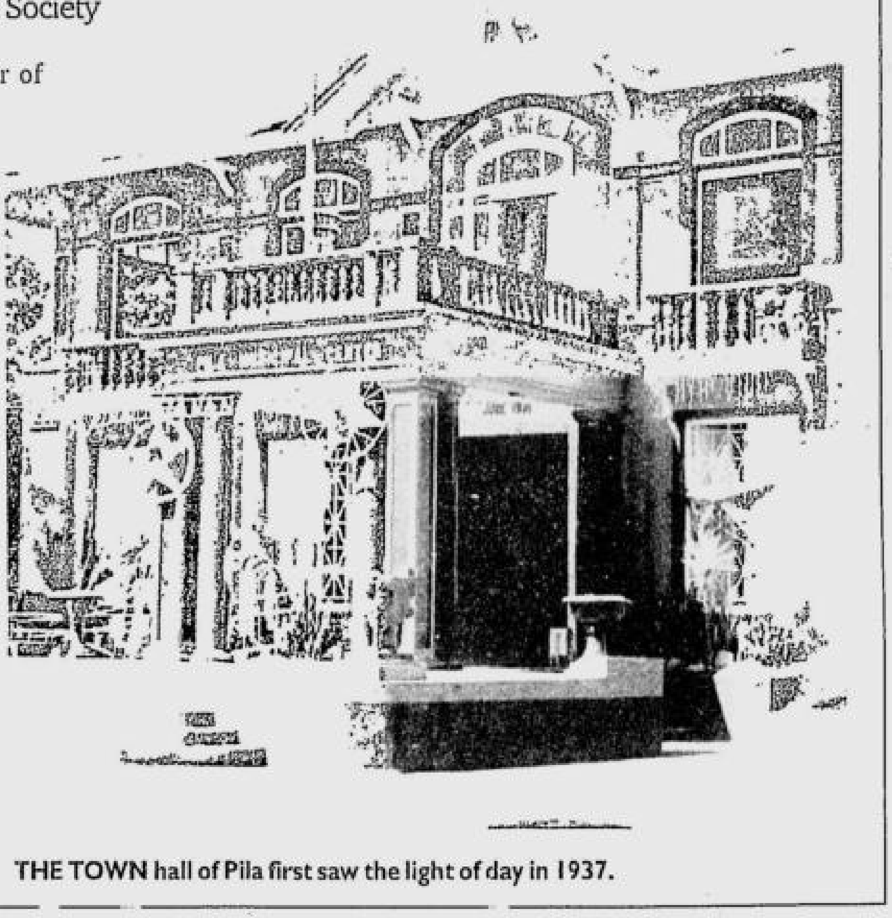
The PHSF was formed in 1993 to assist tourists and visitors to the town.

The NHI also recognized the town as one of the most important archaeological sites in the country.

Pila has a museum—the only one in Laguna—that contains artifacts dating back to the 12th century.

Rice and coconut farming are the main livelihood here. Other residents are engaged in making and trading rice cakes, rice mallows (espasol), and coconut jam.

THE EXTERIOR of Dr. Relova's ancestral home.



THE TOWN hall of Pila first saw the light of day in 1937.

Empire built to last

From page B1

filtered down," Aboitiz says.

"There is a high level of trust and fairness in everything that we have ever done."

Challenges

That trust kept the family together when they met their first challenge right after World War I when the group almost went bankrupt because it took a big position in hemp.

When that did not pan out, the group was saddled with a huge debt and inventory of expensive hemp.

Through restructuring and the grim determination to rise, the Aboitizes survived the test that brought other firms to their knees and eventually to just a footnote in Philippine economic history.

Aboitiz says the group also survived because it was quick to take advantage of opportunities in the horizon, which is a trait of any successful entrepreneur.

"We patterned ourselves after Chinese entrepreneurs and grew from there," Aboitiz says. "We have always been entrepreneurs to a large extent and went in and out of so many businesses."

"Our measure of success is to have made more right calls than wrong ones, and over 100 years, we have certainly had our share of failures," he says.

The group had more hits than misses, such that it grew in stature, reach and influence, not only in its bailiwick in the Visayas and Mindanao, but in Luzon as well.

But Aboitiz's father, Eduardo, the second president of Aboitiz and Co., knew that the group would not be able to move further ahead on its own power alone.

Professional managers

Eduardo, thus, brought in professional managers into the group as early as the 1960s.

He was of the belief that the right person for the job may not always come from within the family.

That period saw Aboitiz and Co. evolve from a purely family-run firm into a corporation with a corporate staff and a group of professional managers with presence in vital industries.

That high level of professionalism within the group has been fostered through the next generations such that of the some 20,000 employees under the wings of the group, only 15 are members of the family.

The latest addition is Tristan Aboitiz, who will be the first from the family's 5th generation to join the company.

They did not get the job because they had the right last name, rather they had the right qualifications and they go through the tests just like any other employee.

"No company of our size can survive without professionals," Aboitiz stresses.

To attract the best of them, the family must be professional, too.

"We have rules in the family. And one is that the family members know that they have no right to a job. There are no heirs apparent here," Aboitiz says.

For those who do want to work in the group, Aboitiz says most usually work outside the company for about two years to prove themselves in their fields and to get a feel of the workplace before joining the company.

Diversification

That experience has gone a long way in keeping the group brimming with new ideas and enthusiasm to take that next major step.

The 1990s saw the group become a major power in the business sector, but the group now in the hands of the present generation saw that the group's future lay not in having fingers in many pies, but in concentrating resources and expertise in businesses where it has a comparative advantage.

Thus, the Aboitiz group bowed out of cement, aquaculture and sugar because it could not compete in these industries.

What was left was a considerable business in transportation (Superferry), power distribution (Davao Light and Power Co., Cotabato Light and Power Co., Visayas Electric Co.), power generation (Luzon Hydro, Hedcor), shipbuilding (FBMA and Tsuneishi Heavy Industries Inc.), food (Pilmico Foods), real estate (Aboitiz Land Co.), banking (Union Bank of the Philippines and City Savings Bank), delivery and supply chain management (2GO).

"We had to choose, and we chose those businesses where we can stay focused and remain competitive," Aboitiz says.

The era of the big, widely diversified conglomerates has ended, and given way to conglomerates with a narrower, but sharper, focus.

Aboitiz says that through the years, the spirit of entrepreneurship, of taking calculated risks, has never left the company.

ERRAMON Aboitiz (right) shakes hands with PSALM president Nieves Osorio to mark the Aboitiz group's successful bid for the Magat hydroelectric power plant in Isabela. RUDY ESPERAS

But this has been tempered by taking a conservative, prudent approach to doing business.

This helped cushion the group from the worst of the effects of the debilitating Asian currency crisis that hit the country and the business sector in 1998.

The peso fell in value against the US dollar and interest rates went up.

This posed a double whammy on companies with a huge debt exposure, especially those with debts denominated in foreign currencies.

"We were lucky because we have always been conservative," Aboitiz says.

Aboitiz says it was also fortunate that the group's operations are concentrated in the Visayas and Mindanao, thus, out of the radar screens of most intrigues.

"From my perspective, living outside Metro Manila kept us closer together," he says. "We have a stronger bond and have a more simple life."

This has also kept the group closer to the communities that they serve, not only with superior products and services but also with projects designed to improve their lives.

Philanthropy

It was Aboitiz's grandfather, Ramon, who started the group's philanthropic journey.

His son, Eduardo, took the philanthropic efforts to the next level by putting up the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc.

RAFI today has a full-time staff that draws up long-term social development projects to help the communities in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Eduardo was also one of the top businessmen that founded the Philippine Business for Social Progress in 1970, because he shared in the belief that there should be an organized way of doing social projects, since the individual companies lacked the expertise to do it on their own at that time.

RAFI and the corporate arm, Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc., have several ongoing projects in education, health, culture and enterprise development that are going a long way in rescuing many from the grip of poverty.

The Aboitiz group, for instance, is involved in addressing water sustainability in Metro Cebu and environmental protection through Ecosystem Project Cebu, an integrated community-based program focused on environmental conservation.

The Aboitiz group also remains a partner of PBSP and is represented on the PBSP board of trustees and in the Visayas operations of the biggest corporate-led nongovernment organization in the country.

It is projects and partnerships like these that make going into business more worthwhile for the Aboitiz group.

"We have always believed that making money is important, but that profits should be shared with the community," he says.

Aboitiz is confident that with these examples, the fifth generation of Aboitizes would continue to live up to the values and beliefs handed down from the time of the founder, Paulino, and they will continue to love each other and their country and take pride in what the group has accomplished.

"Like every other generation, we are building blocks. We try to add value and make the company better than before," he says. "Hopefully, the next generation will improve on what we have done."

Tarlac designer cites passion for fashion as reason for being

Text and photos
by Russell Arador
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—WHEN THE Japanese government decided to limit the number of Filipino entertainers entering that country last year from 10,000 to 1,000 a month, it caused promotional companies to close shop and clothing stores to lose income.

Robert Valdez Marcos, who used to make clothes and costumes for one of the promotional companies that went bankrupt last year, has been losing a monthly sales income of P50,000 due to the restriction.

But the 38-year-old owner of Robert's Beads and Fabrics, remains unfazed, citing his "passion for fashion" as the reason that keeps his business afloat, despite the hardship and cutthroat competition in the industry.

Beginnings

Marcos is an electronics and communications engineer whose interest in clothes goes back to his high school days. While attending college at Saint Louis University in Baguio City, he started designing his first gown.

It was for a friend who joined the search for Miss SLU. His friend won and, even though he did not get anything for the effort, he was very happy.

MARCOS likes using beads in his work.

From then on, aside from his studies (he was on a national scholarship and had to maintain his grades), he busied himself designing clothes pro bono.

In February 1997, he put up his made-to-order clothes business on Juan Luna Street in Barangay Sto. Cristo here.

In the beginning, he had an industrial partner, a fashion-designer-friend who got Marcos' "creative juices flowing."

When his partner went abroad, he was left to tend the business.

When he started out, Marcos only had an edging machine and a few sewing machines that he bought using his savings as a scholar at the Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. There he earned a Master of Arts degree in Mass Communication.

Now, he has an army of tailors, some of whom work for him full-time, and seven high-speed sewing machines, among other things.

During the first three years of his business, Marcos said, his only customers were his sisters and a number of loyal friends.

He couldn't make a profit during those times.

B, C crowd

With hundreds of clients coming not only from Tarlac, but also from Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan, his shop now grosses more than P1 million a year in sales.

"My clients are mostly from the BC crowd," he says. "I have to accept that the A crowd still goes to Metro Manila for clothes."

And he does not discriminate. While his clients may include a provincial board member and a congressman's wife, Marcos nevertheless provides the same quality of service to everyone who walks into his shop.

He also gives advice on shoes, jewelry, hairstyle and makeup to his clients. That is why he's more comfortable calling himself an "image stylist" than a fashion designer.

"A fashion designer sets the trend for the coming times, and I don't do that," Marcos says. "Instead, I help people decide what appropriate clothes to wear for a particular function, together with the accessories that go with the clothes ... I don't deal with fashion models."

The people he deals with, he says, are "women who need to dress up in real-life situations—big women, thin women, young and old women."

Honesty with clients, therefore, is important.

"I call a spade a spade," he says. "If I think they don't fit a particular dress, I tell them so."

Because he wants only the best for his clients, he says, he has developed a three-tiered production philosophy for his clothes.

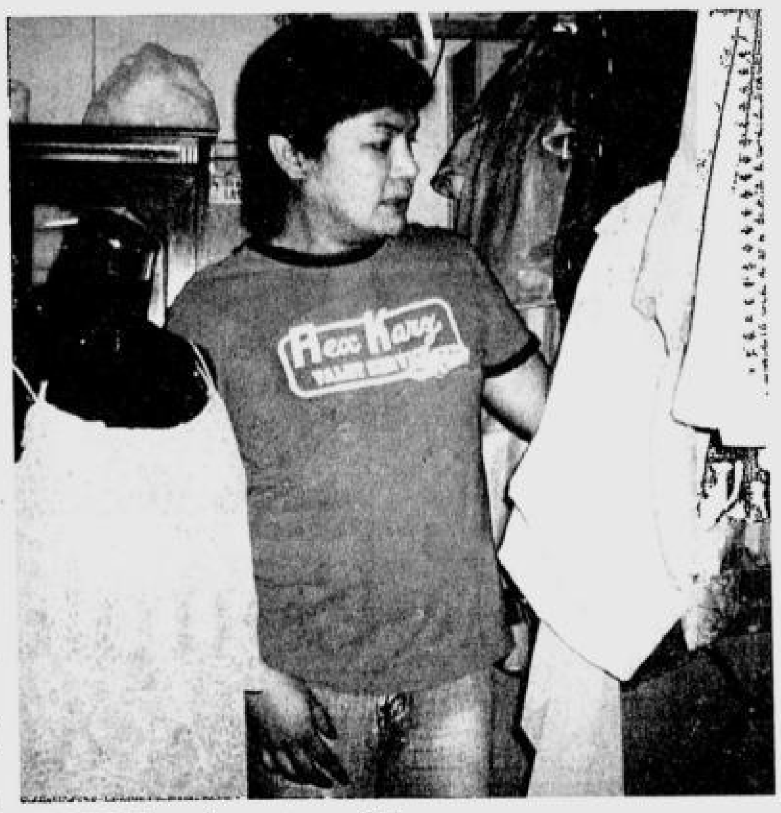
"I give importance to function, aesthetics and creativity, in that order," he says.

Marcos says he views the functionality and durability of the clothes that he makes to be of primary importance.

As to aesthetics and creativity, he says, he draws ideas from a lot of sources—from watching cable television for the spring and summer collection of international designers to surfing the Internet.

Survival

In Tarlac, where the market for custom-made clothes is fickle, it is tough sustaining a business like Robert's Beads and Fabrics.



ROBERT Marcos inspects one of his gowns.

The longest lasting designer's clothes store stayed in business in the province for 14 years, Marcos says.

His shop will be 10 years old next year, and it is still going strong.

"The fact that I'm in business for 10 years already means my hits outnumber my misses," he says. "This is a lucrative business and I get to help people. I therefore intend to stay in business for a long time."

How did he do it?

Marcos, who teaches entrepreneurship at the Tarlac State University, where he is also director for planning, shares the importance of time management: "The old saying that 'Time is gold' is true."

Proper time management was something Marcos learned from his mother. When they were children, his mother would wake him up together with his sisters at 4 a.m. so they could help in the family's grains business in the market.

"I rise early and I sleep late at night," he says. "Between waking up and going to bed, I have accomplished a lot of things."

He also stresses the importance of trusting one's workers.

"I have a very able staff," he says. "I've built trust and confidence among them. I trust all of them, even in making designs. They make my work easier, after all, management is getting things done through people."

Sharing vacation time

IF YOU THINK PURCHASING PREMIUM VAcation spots—beachfront accommodations, luxury cruises, skiing havens, and yes, the world's best golf resorts—is only for tycoons and taipans, then you haven't come across vacation ownership.

Also known as timesharing holidays, vacation ownership offers consumers the chance to purchase fully furnished vacation accommodations for only a fraction of the cost of full ownership.

For a one-time purchase price and payment of yearly maintenance fees and taxes, purchasers can own their vacation accommodations for a predetermined number of years.

In return, ownership entitles vacationers to enjoy to the fullest the features and amenities of the property for a certain amount of time per year.

Traditionally, vacation owners can enjoy their home resort for seven days and seven nights. If their home resort is affiliated with a vacation exchange company, then members get the chance to holiday at other resorts around the world also affiliated with the exchange group, as well as enjoy extras such as travel services, hotel discounts and golf packages.

Having a home resort that is affiliated with a vacation exchange company allows vacation owners to swap their vacation time with that of other members and enjoy a whole new vacation experience at another resort.

Vacation ownership is a marketing concept that evolved some 30 years ago and is currently enjoying a boom in the global market, penetrating more than 3.9 million households in the United States alone.

Sales in 2004 topped $7.9-B, a 21.4-percent growth over the previous year. Today, millions of vacationer owners enjoy high-quality holidays because of vacation ownership.

So why go into vacation ownership? Vacation ownership assures buyers of vacations at luxurious resorts with amenities, service and ambiance that rival any of the world's top rated vacation destinations.

With flexibility and fully equipped accommodations that offer the best in holiday luxury, vacation ownership allows owners to vacation like the rich and famous without breaking their bankbook.

It also locks in the cost of the vacation accommodation and provides tomorrow's vacations at current rates—simply put, you get more bang for your bucks, more fun for your funds for the long term at today's prices. Even better, it allows owners to take pleasure in owning vacation property without the headache of personally maintaining it.

In its quest to satisfy the growing need for quality vacation destinations, the Active Group, one of the country's leading real estate developers, is set to launch the Mount Malarayat Privilege Circle this month.

This exclusive vacation ownership club has been specially designed to satisfy the rest and relaxation demands of high-net worth individuals.

At the completely built and fully-furnished Suites at Mount Malarayat, located within the existing and fully-developed golf resort community of the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, members can vacation in style, in exquisite and tasteful accommodations, while enjoying golfing or sporting pleasures.

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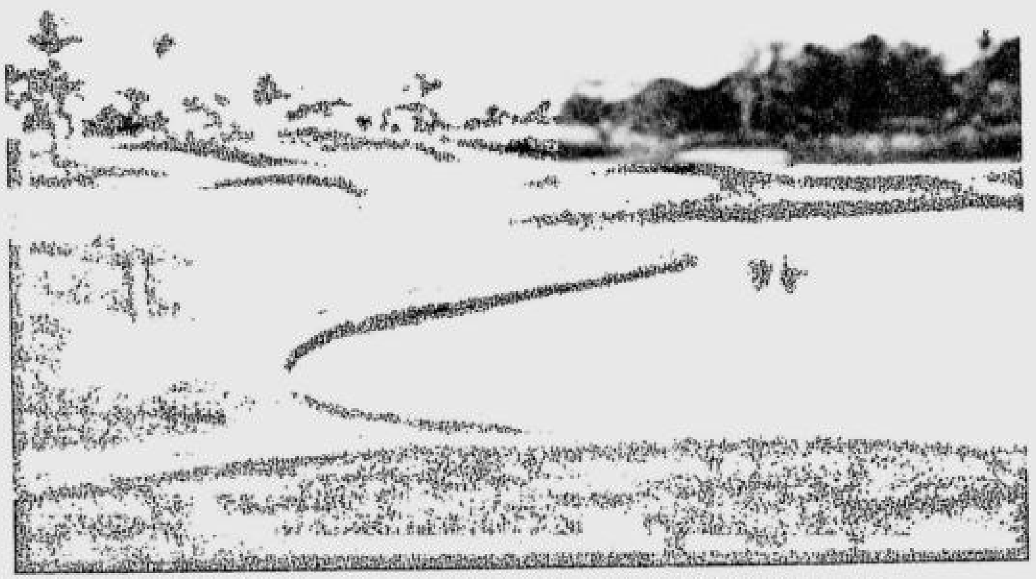

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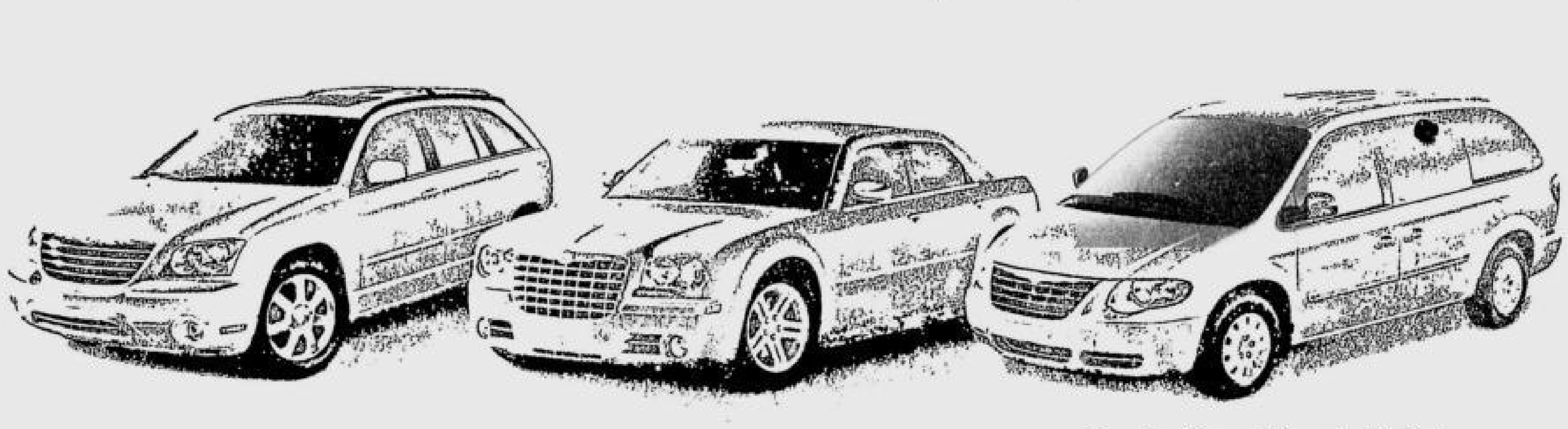

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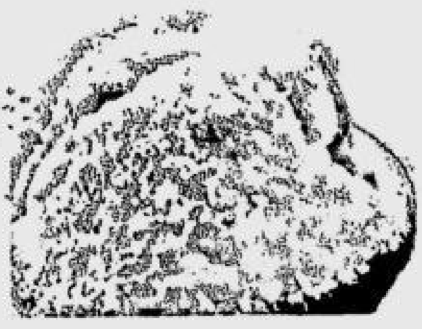


PAN DE PIDRO's baked delights

SOME OF the fans of Pan de Pidro

Couple's venture lives on bread alone

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

GILIE SING LOVES GOOD BREAD.

Many times in the past, she would scour the bakeries in her neighborhood in search of quality baked products for herself and her family, but always ended up frustrated.

To get herself good bread, she had to go to groceries, supermarkets and bakeshops. But even the more expensive types of bread and fancy baked products bought from these commercial outlets could not satisfy her longing for her old favorites.

She would continue looking for the good old *pan de sal, pan de coco, kababayan, kalihim* and other traditional 'Pinoy' bread she grew up with.

This and her desire to share her good bread experience with her children and the people in her community were the driving forces that led Gilie and her husband, public relations practitioner Peter Sing, to go into the bakery business and put up Pan de Pidro in August 2005.

Only about one and a half years in the business, Pan de Pidro has grown into a chain of eight outlets and is still growing fast—perhaps too fast that the Sings have decided to go a bit slower to ensure the quality of their bread.

Although the business has been growing beyond the couple's expectations, Gilie said building it was definitely not a walk in the park.

Experimental kitchen

Gilie retired in 2001 from an insurance agency where she worked as property administrator for many years.

After a few years of enjoying her retirement, she found herself itching to go into business.

As if it was the most natural thing to do, she decided she would go into the bakery business. She underwent a four-day training on commercial bread making and bakery management in July 2005.

After her training, then 38-year-old Gilie immediately got down to business.

She bought herself a two-level, four-tray oven and converted the family kitchen into her "experimental kitchen" every night after dinner.

She would spend the night working on her bread and produce 60 to 80 pieces a day-initially, she would only have either *pan de sal, pan de coco*, Spanish bread or cheese bread.

"The training was more on managing a bakery than making breads but the basics in baking I learned from it were helpful," she says.

Before retiring to bed, she would post a notice on her door of what she would be selling the following morning. Most of the time, she would be able to sell to neighbors half of what she made and end up giving away the remaining half for "taste tests."

Taking off

Based on comments by family members, neighbors and customers, and, of course, with her own observation of her products, Gilie would make modifications and improvements on the basic recipes she learned from her training.

And based on the growing number of her buyers from the neighborhood every morning, her 'experiments' were working.

Gilie converted a small space in front of the family apartment in Vergara, Mandaluyong into her 'experimental outlet' but as her market grew bigger, she knew she needed a real bakery.

But before she could have one, Gilie had to get her husband's approval and financial help, which was not an easy task.

Peter might be a supportive husband, but he wanted to be on the safe side if they would be investing their hard-earned money into something.

Gilie had to prepare a feasibility study on her project for Peter's scrutiny. She would defend her proposal and make improvements whenever loopholes were spotted by her husband.

"It was like defending your thesis in school," she says.

But when the study was finally "approved," Peter went all-out to support Gilie's project.

Husband-wife team

The first Pan de Pidro bakery was put up on a small space on a 178-square-meter property owned by the couple, also in Vergara.

Gilie remained hands-on but she already hired bakers and other workers. She had acquired bigger industrial ovens, mixers and other necessary baking materials. Her list of offerings grew steadily from only four when she started to more than 20.

Peter, the marketing guy in the family, played his part and put his 'machinery' to work. He would give out his wife's freshly-baked bread to friends and associates in nice boxes also made by Gilie, complete with home-made stickers containing their phone numbers and address.

He was also the official delivery guy at the start. The strategy paid off.

Shortly after the bakery opened on Nov. 29, 2005, the couple started receiving orders even from people they didn't know. By the second week of December that year, they were swamped with orders.

At that time, the couple knew they had to expand and they did just that. They put up additional structures on the property and in no time, the whole 178-square-meter property in Vergara was developed into a bakery and the Pan de Pidro commissary.

The business grew so fast that further expansion became necessary.

So, in January the following year—less than two months after opening the first bakery—Gilie and Peter opened an outlet on a 12-meter space on Boni Ave., near the Boni MRT station.

THE SINGS now have eight outlets.

Rapid growth

To support growth, more money was needed. The problem was the couple had already used up the funds earmarked for the business, as well as some loans from relatives.

Gilie even had to sell her car for additional capital. Not a single bank was willing to lend to the couple. Luckily, five friends came to the rescue. They infused additional capital and became part owners of Pan de Pidro.

With further expansion inevitable, the couple decided to go into franchising. Gilie and Peter tapped a franchising guru, underwent training and devised Pan de Pidro's own franchising system.

The system provided for two franchising schemes—bakery/commissary franchise and retail outlet franchise.

To date, Pan de Pidro has eight outlets, two are company owned and six are under franchising arrangements. Of the six, one is a bakery/commissary and the five others are retail outlets.

A bakery franchise is charged a franchise fee of P200,000 for five years and requires a bigger space, while a retail outlet pays a franchise fee of P100,000 for four years and requires only about 12-square-meter space. Both packages cover the use of business name and other proprietary marks, training for franchisee and staff, procurement system, marketing assistance, opening assistance, and research and development.

Exceeding expectations

Although Gilie's initial goal was to put up simple neighborhood bakeries in as many communities as she can reach, Pan de Pidro has gone beyond that.

Most of its outlets are in commercial areas, one is in the campus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa which, Gilie and Peter say, is the best performer among the eight. Other outlets are in Pasig, Pasay, San Juan, Ortigas and Las Pinas.

Peter, who is the company president and in charge of marketing, says there are several applications for franchising but Pan de Pidro is carefully assessing each one of them to ensure viability and success.

The company is looking at expanding to the provinces, initially within Luzon, and overseas through franchising. The target, according to the couple, is to put up an outlet either in Hong Kong or Saudi Arabia, as well as a number of provincial outlets this year.

From the basic recipes learned from her short training, Gilie was able to develop her own formula that clicked in the market.

To ensure that the quality of Pan de Pidro bread is not compromised even if the number of franchisees further increases, the couple tapped American Bakels—a multinational firm engaged in the preparation and manufacturing of bread ingredients in accordance with the clients' own formula and specifications.

Gilie's formula was entrusted to Bakels which became the sole source of the ingredients used in all Pan de Pidro outlets. This company also provides assistance to Gilie in developing new products.

She admits it was Bakels that helped her produce her muffins, which come in 11 flavors.

Although Pan de Pidro has gone beyond its target communities, its goal of making available affordable quality bread products, which are always freshly baked, has been achieved.

Company policy does not allow the sale of over 24-hour-old bread. The outlets' leftovers are collected every day at the close of business hours to ensure that they will not be sold.

More dreams

From an initial capital of a little more than P1 million, Pan de Pidro is now worth P7 million. It employs 25 to 50 people and both its product offerings and market are expanding.

With the business steadily growing, Peter is about to start a personal project that is aimed at getting company workers, grouped into a cooperative, own a Pan de Pidro outlet.

The plan is to set aside a few centavos per every bread sold by Pan de Pidro for a fund that will be used later, together with the counterpart that will come from Peter, as the cooperative's initial capital.

"It's our CSR (corporate social responsibility) project and we decided we should start with our own people," he says.

Strawberry products reinvented

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—IF THE BEATLES' song, "Strawberry Fields Forever," were true, then this town that proclaims itself the strawberry capital of the Philippines would have had no problems.

The strawberry season, which starts next month, is brief and while prices of strawberry would drop to as low as P30 a kilogram, they could soar to a high of P100 a kg, if you could find them, from April to November.

Tourists are, of course, familiar with strawberry jam and preserves and the deceptively sweet strawberry wine, but more can be done with strawberries, as the Benguet State University is finding out.

It is perfecting other products derived from strawberries, such as strawberry champoy, pinwheel (chewy candy) and dried strawberries.

"We have a short strawberry season and yet we have to be creative in giving people more choices," explains Jane Keith Avila, project manager of the BSU Food Processing Center.

Avila and Lory Balaoing of the College of Home Economics and Technology were tasked to come out with dehydrated strawberry products as part of the Integrated Strawberry Research and Development Program (ISRDP), a multi-agency research program set to boost the strawberry industry in the province.

The two started research last year and decided on these three products.

Of the three, strawberry champoy has the most extensive ingredients, Avila said.

Soy sauce, vinegar, spices, sugar and salt are added then boiled together with the strawberries. The fruits are then dried at 70 degrees Centigrade for 36 hours before they are packaged as champoy.

Avila said the dryer could accommodate 50 kg of fresh strawberries.

To produce the dried strawberries, sugar, citric acid and corn oil are added to fresh strawberries and boiled. Sugar is again added and the mixture is reboiled before it is drained and desiccated for one-and-a-half days like the champoy.

For strawberry pinwheel, sugar is added to the strawberries and pureed before these are dried. These are then rolled into pinwheels and sliced.

Dried strawberries are sold at P70 per 100 grams while champoy is sold at P45 per pack and P55 for four pinwheels.

"In our initial study, the non-Baguio residents are more excited with the dehydrated strawberry products," said Avila. "Baguio residents find them expensive."

BSU is also experimenting with the packaging.

Because the dried strawberries resemble the real thing, they are sold in clear plastic bags and jars. The pinwheels, which are very chewy, are also packaged in plastic bags.

The champoy, on the other hand, are individually wrapped in paper and sold in either red paper cups or clear plastic.

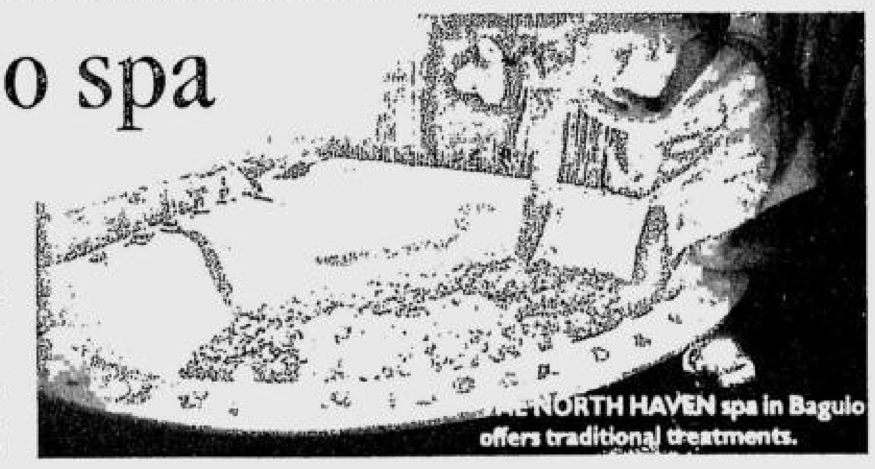
Avila said BSU is willing to train entrepreneurs on the basics on strawberry dehydration to get more people to join the campaign to find new ways of reinventing the popular strawberries. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

STRAWBERRIES help bring visitors to Baguio.

EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Indigenous comfort in a Baguio spa

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon



THE NORTH HAVEN spa in Baguio offers traditional treatments.

BAGUIO CITY—ONE OF THE COMforts of being a village elder in Sagada, Mt. Province, is the privilege of being given the *kolkolis*, or indigenous foot massage using sticks.

Back then, tourists would have to go to Mt. Data Hotel in Bauko town, about four hours away from here, to enjoy the *kolkolis* experience.

The trip would be worth it. *Kolkolis*, or *dagdagay*, as it is also known in some areas, will have one's body tingling and aches slowly dissipating, after the pine sticks are applied like drumsticks on the feet's so-called reflexology points.

The only thing missing from the full village elder treatment is the slow fire on the *dap-ay* (community meeting space) where tribal issues are discussed.

The late historian William Henry Scott described the genuine *kolkolis*: "It was the duty of the younger boys to scratch the feet of the older boys and old men at night with sticks cut to the lengths of from four to six inches long."

"The boys who had to 'scratch' would hold one stick on each hand while he scratched the soles of the feet of whoever demanded to be scratched."

The North Haven Spa on Avelino Street here has brought the Cordillera foot massage right in the city.

The spa's ambiance is still Cordillera: The *bul-ol* (rice granary guardian statues) are set in place throughout the facility. Also, Buddha statues are everywhere. Then, there are the occasional Bencab sketches adorning the spa's walls.

Kolkolis, a favorite of foreign clients and tourists, is not the only Cordillera relaxation massage available in North Haven.

Paul, one of two male therapists (there are eight women) of North Haven, said women prefer to have *gisgisto* or scalp massage "the Sagada way."

According to the ancient practice, girls give older, unmarried women *gisgisto* inside the *ebgan*, or girls' dormitory.

Arella Gonzales, owner of North Haven, said she decided to offer indigenous massage because Baguio is the gateway to the Cordillera, and she wanted tourists and locals to know that Cordillerans know how to relax.

"They always say that the (Cordillera) girls have rosy cheeks and look younger than the lowlanders," Gonzales said.

A storeowner by day, Gonzales studied massage and reflexology in Thailand, but decided to concentrate on the Cordillera massage.

She recently hired a Sagada native to teach her therapists the rudiments of *taltaladtad*, the Mt. Province version of body massage that was traditionally given to men and women after work in the fields.

The main offering of North Haven is the Cordillera scrub. Customers can choose from coffee, strawberry and cream, or Cordillera rice for exfoliation.

Gonzales said most women go for strawberry, while men choose rice or coffee.

After the showers, a customer is treated to a jacuzzi, which is filled with rose petals from the gardens of nearby La Trinidad, Benguet.

Gonzales said the return of investment is very slow in the spa business so one might as well enjoy the work.

"There are so many spas that you have to create a niche to stand out," she said.

Gonzales acquired an old house and turned it into a spa, adding things as they came along. She built a rock falls and planted tree ferns in the compound. The walls are covered with *rono* (a bamboo variety) reeds.

The Benguet coffee scrub, as well as the Cordillera rice and strawberry scrub, is worth P795. One can also have a whitening or coconut body scrub for the same price.

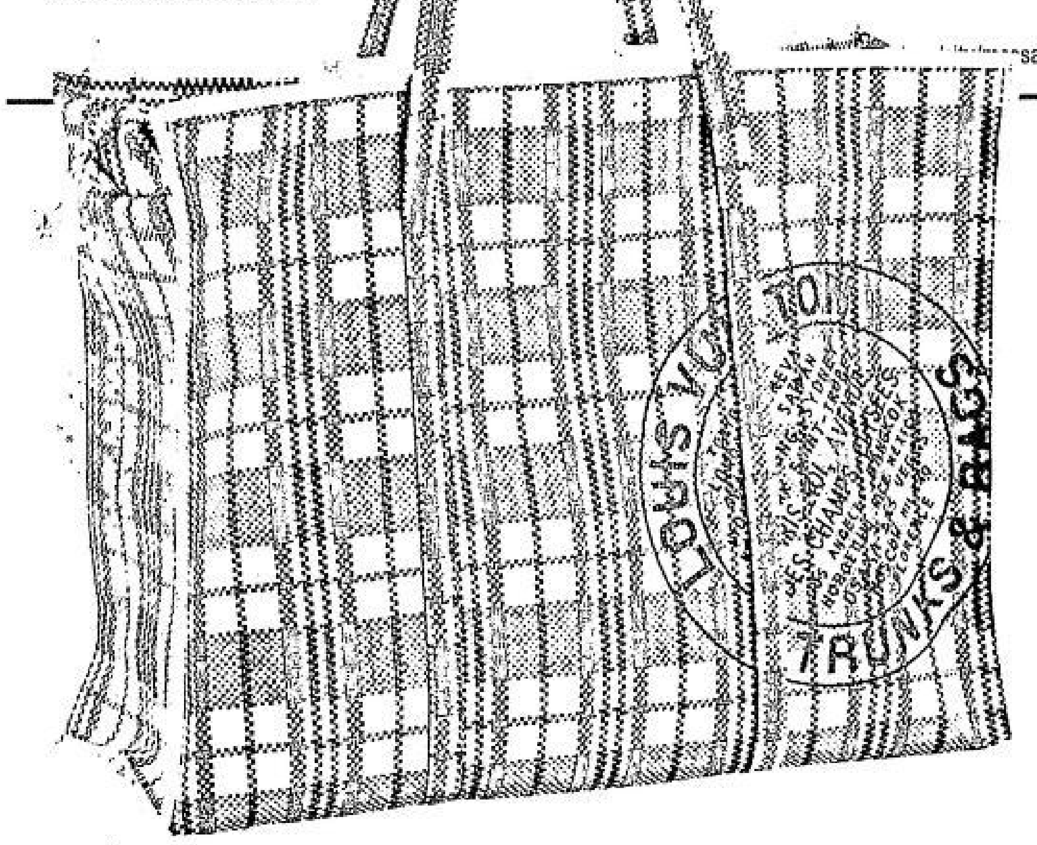
"Hilot" is P450, while aromatic massage with ventussa (the application of glass jars that act as suction to relieve muscle cramps) is P595.

The "Cordillera bliss," a complete facial, scrub, body and foot massage done the Cordillera way, is P1,800, while the "Foot bliss" is packaged at P695.

The "mountain bliss"—the *dagdagay (kolkolis)* and *gisgisto* treatment—is packaged at P1,900.

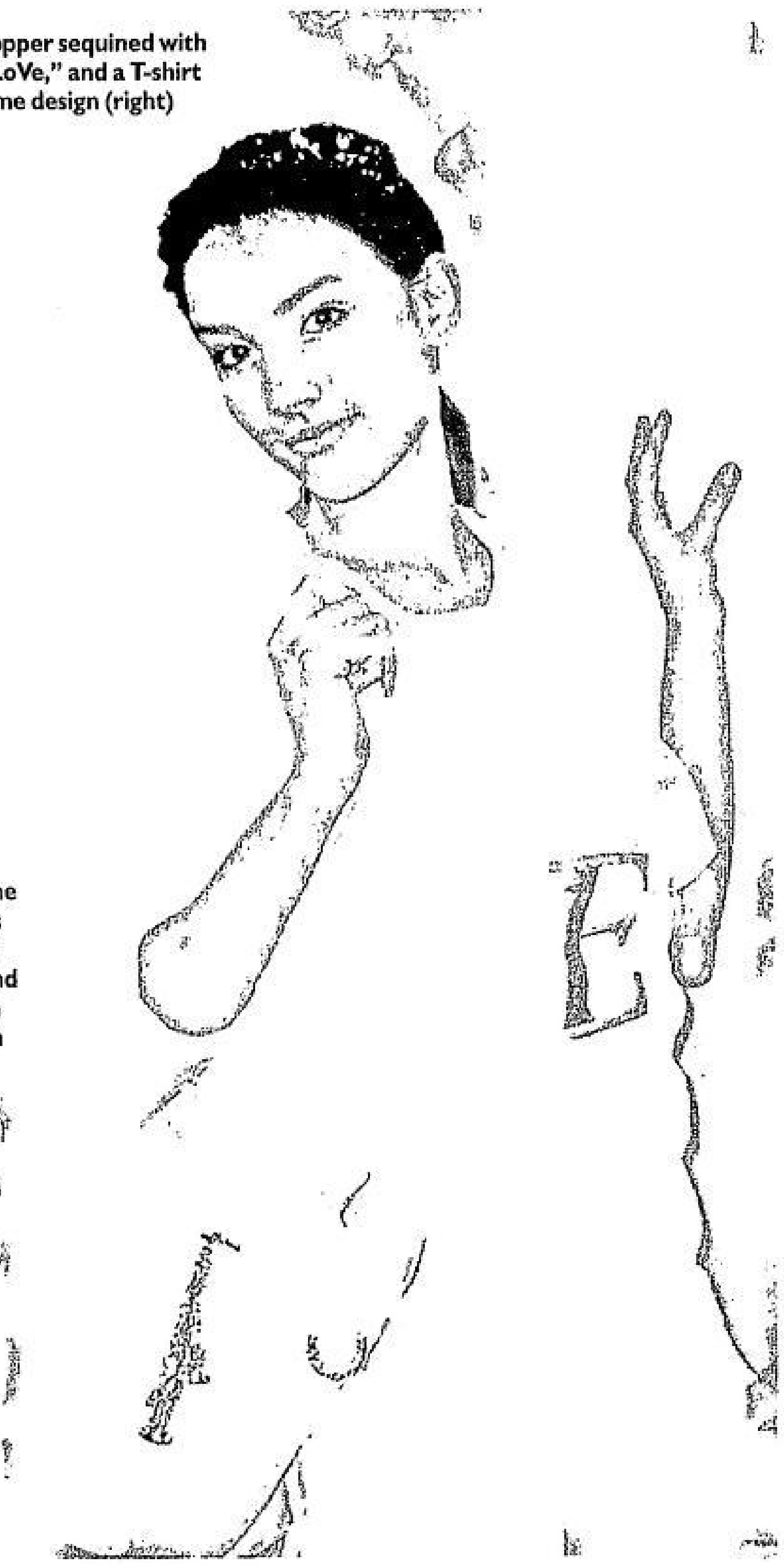
Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sage to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

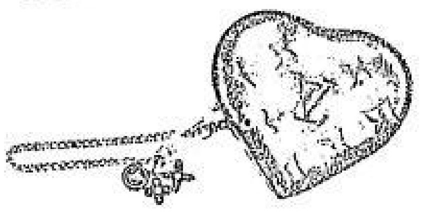
Mönmilk
Pure, Natural and Tasty
Mönmilk
PURE MILK
AVAILABLE AT LEADING SUPERMARKETS NATIONWIDE

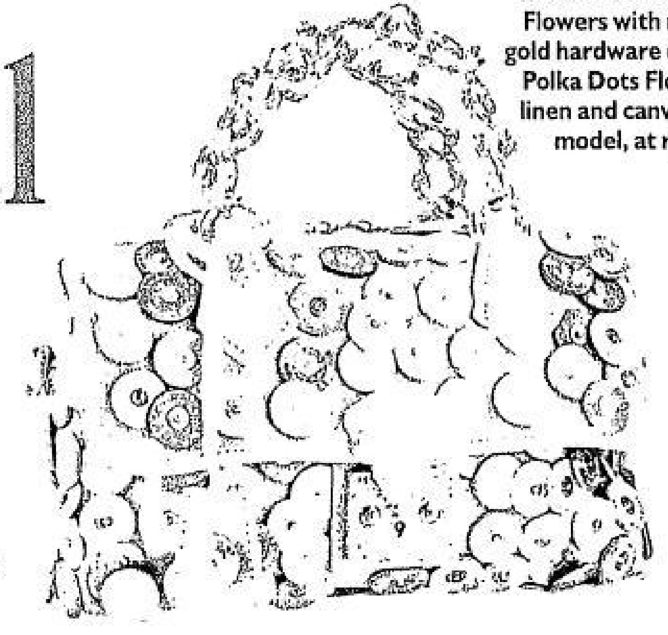


EITHER you love it or hate it, but the humble plastic *bayong* favored by *viajeras* gets an ultra-fancy makeover from Louis Vuitton to become one of the It bags of the season.

SIMPLE shopper sequined with the word "LoVe," and a T-shirt with the same design (right)







COIN purse (above), the multicolor Polka Dots Flowers with metallic gold hardware (left), and Polka Dots Flowers in linen and canvas (with model, at right)

'Bayong' chic and other magical reinventions

Forget the clothes by Marc Jacobs. LV bags continue to raise fashion temperature by recasting the plastic Viajera and other lowly sacks

PLATFORM sandals in green satin with hollowed-out, hammered metal heels

THE TRIBUTE Bag, a quirky 15-in-one combo of LV's most popular handbags

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral
ADDITIONAL PRODUCT PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOUIS VUITTON

LOUIS VUITTON MAY NOT exactly be the kind of brand you would associate with fairies—the mythical kind, that is—but those magical winged creatures were, in fact, the source of Marc Jacobs' inspiration for LV's Women's Spring/Summer 2007/08 apparel collection.

The pieces are delicate and pretty, like garden pixies incarnated in vintage-feel silk chiffons, organzas, voiles and cotton jerseys, in the palest pastels and antiqued florals. The sweetness is underscored by appliquéd rosettes on silk chiffons, tiered ruffles as underskirts, and flounces on other pieces. Jacobs also references undergarment details in some of the pieces—hook-and-eye fastenings, back lacing on a tailored suit and embroidered bras underneath a sheer top.

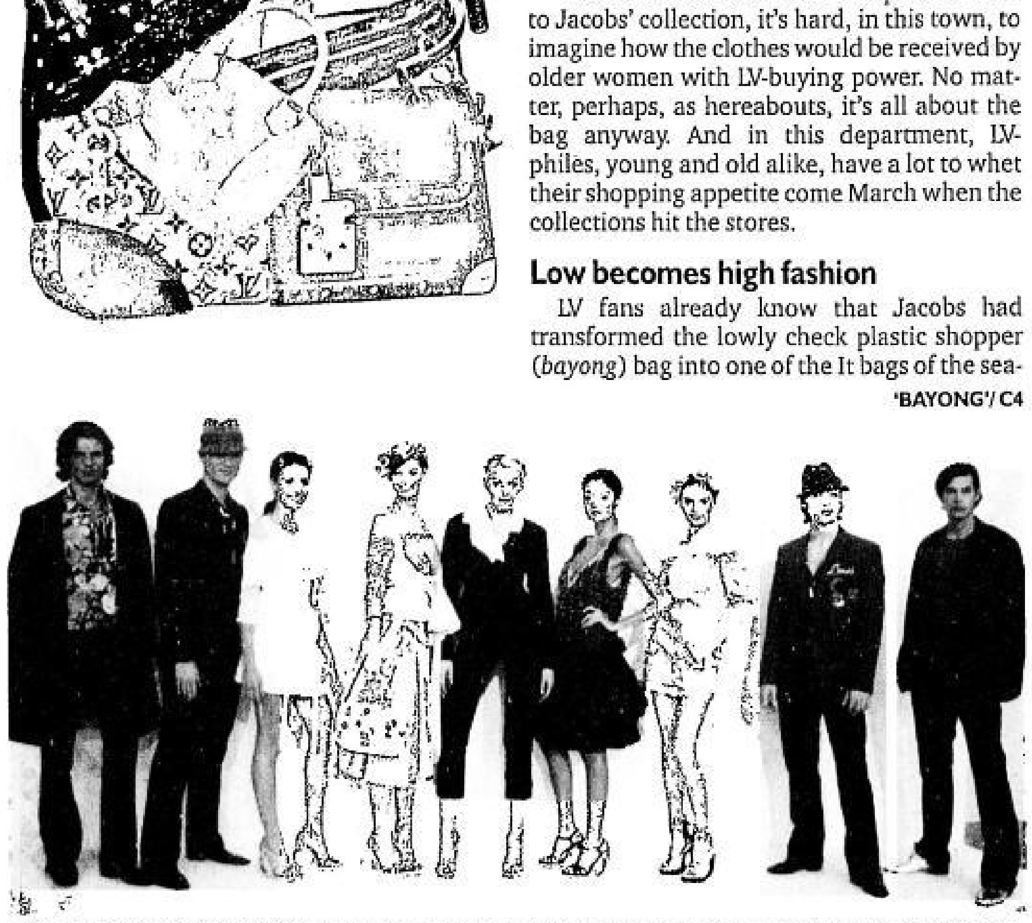
Textures are decidedly soft and very feminine, even young, so that the styling is countered by masculine details like a dark leather belt against a frilly dress. Jacobs played on the good and the bad fairy, said Dinesh Kandiah, LV's PR director for Asia Pacific, at the Asian press preview in Singapore, so that in the sea of pastels were several black pieces, including a sharply tailored smoking jacket with slim abbreviated pants.

While international critics responded well to Jacobs' collection, it's hard, in this town, to imagine how the clothes would be received by older women with LV-buying power. No matter, perhaps, as hereabouts, it's all about the bag anyway. And in this department, LV-philes, young and old alike, have a lot to whet their shopping appetite come March when the collections hit the stores.

Low becomes high fashion

LV fans already know that Jacobs had transformed the lowly check plastic shopper (*bayong*) bag into one of the It bags of the sea-

'BAYONG'/C4

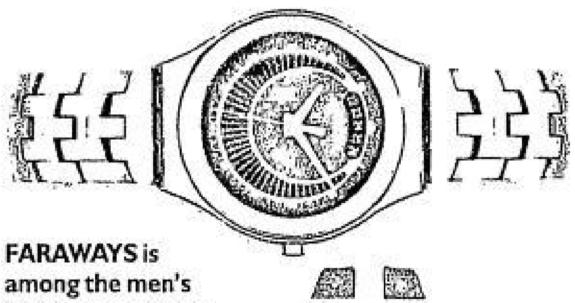


LOUIS Vuitton's S/S 07/08 apparel collection, presented to the Asian media at the Chijmes in Singapore on Thursday

"Gusto kong mag-text out ng 'hello-wazzup' sa posse!!! AYT?"
AYT! KC ang barkada sa Globe...

“Gusto kong united sa text ang Rasta brotherhood! AYT?”
AYT! One tropa, one love na under Globe...

For men, naturally



FARAWAYS is among the men's Swatches available at Swatch stores and kiosks in major malls in the country.

ON Your Top

MINUTERIA

BATTLENIGHT

THE SOFT AND CASUAL look of leather defines the Swatch 2007 Spring-Summer collection for men called, well, Men, Naturally. Everything in the collection seems colored in a warm, rich shade of gold. Leather is dressed and crisp or plush and softly natural. Caramel and honeyed shades of aluminum and steel offer a note of warmth.

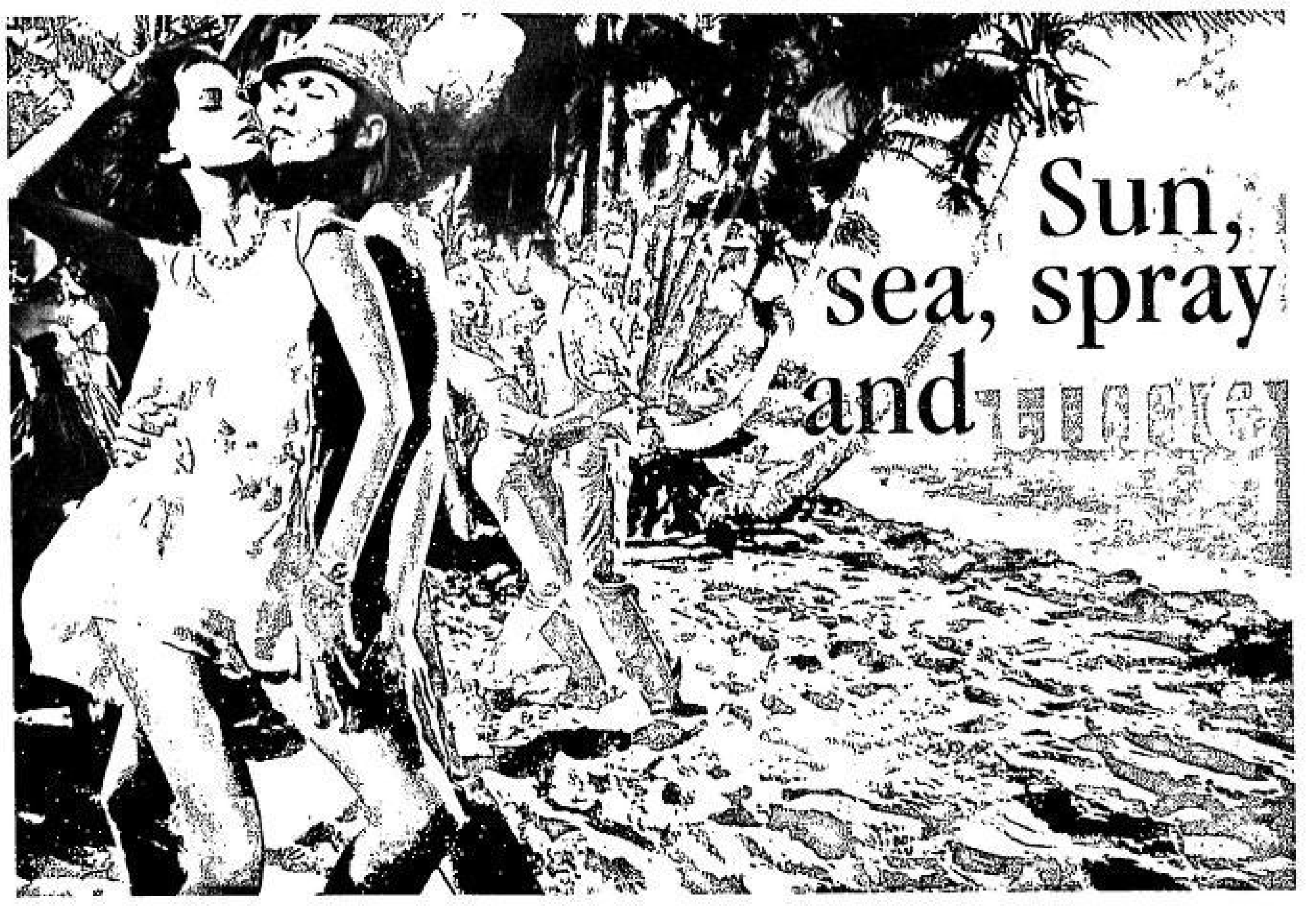
On Your Top is summery, bold and elegant. This Jelly in Jelly runs a straight red and beige road from end to end down the silicon strap. A red silicon loop, clear plastic buckle, and a molded case in mat-transparent plastic frame the see-through dial.

Ruby Touch is bold. This high-energy Jelly in Jelly has a red silicon rubber strap and a case in mat clear plastic contrasting with the sun-brushed black dial.

Battlenight is a high-tech navigation tool for the man on the road in the black of night. The molded black rubber tire-track strap frames the bold Irony Chrono's brushed steel case, with its tachymeter scale engraved in white on the black bezel.

Faraways is a polished steel link bracelet. Four compass points on the sole marks on the bezel framing a dial that evokes a telescope directed into space.

Minuteria is a bright yellow Irony Chrono with a molded rubber strap and loop, and mat aluminum buckle and case. A tachymeter scale in bare aluminum appears on the black bezel.



Sun, sea, spray and [illegible]

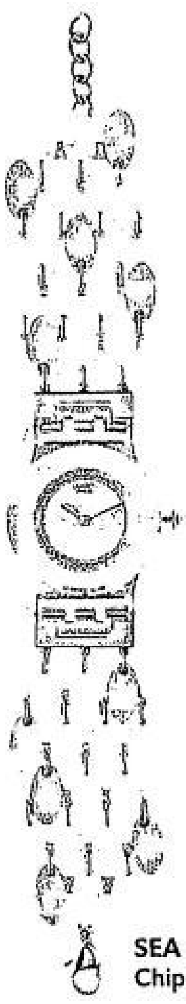
AMONG THE FASHIONable, trend-conscious themes of the Spring-Summer 2007 Swatch collection is the Salt and Salsa line that is largely inspired by the energy, verve and sunny dispositions of the Caribbean.

One Night in 54 is contemporary tribal art with a designer flourish. The 12 o'clock side of the pink plastic strap holds a white mask with a woman's makeup, body art, giant earrings, a headpiece and pink feathers.

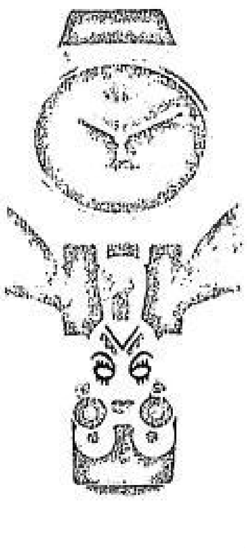
Sea Chips is a naturally glittering Skin that catches the eye with plastic mother-of-pearl paillettes aligned along the bracelet and a shimmering mother-of-pearl dial set within its characteristic transparent plastic case.

Tropic Feel, a playfully original Lady, is a loose, jangly cluster of plastic charms on chains leading to a steel and orange butterfly poised on the 6 o'clock side of the clear, green-tinted plastic case.

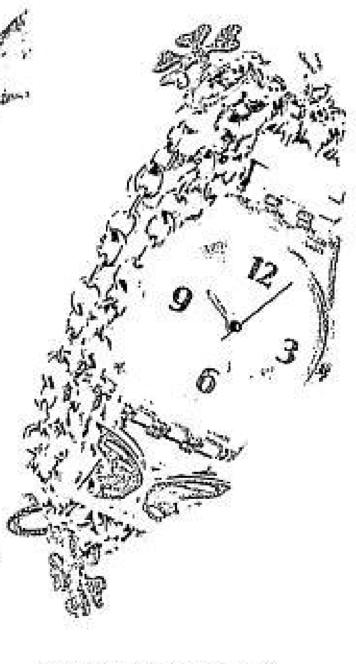
Bird Twister has two parrot portraits on either side of its clear plastic case that are raised in relief. Absent of all numerals, the dial has a cluster of overlapping multicolored buttons in sunshiny, tropical hues.



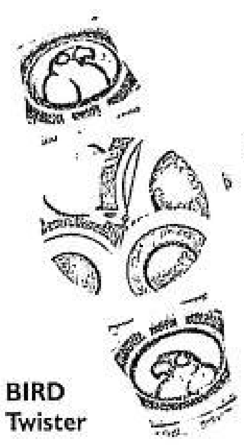
SEA Chips



ONE Night in 54

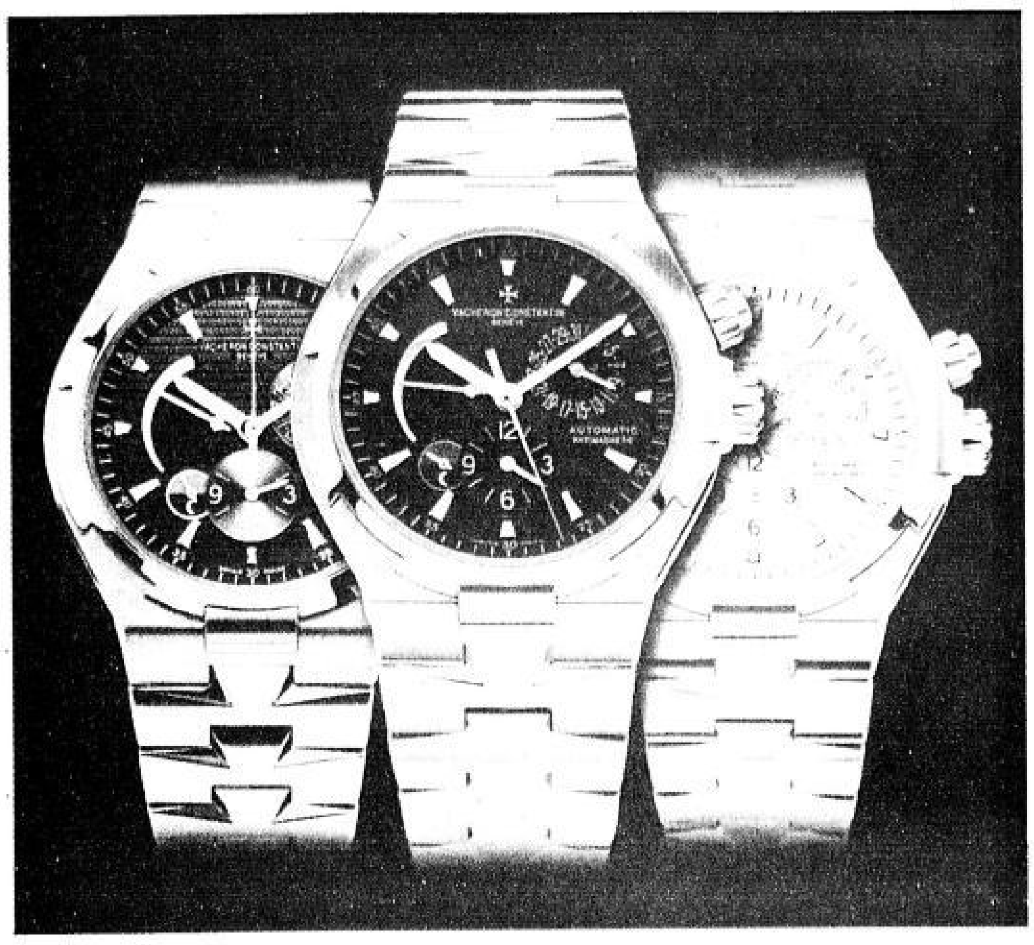


TROPIC Feel is one of Swatch watches distributed exclusively in the Philippines by Gift Gate Inc.



BIRD Twister

“Gusto kong makarinig ng ‘sweet nothings’ from my baby. AYT?”
AYT! Nonstop lovefest sa Globe...



If time is gold, the Vacheron Constantin watch is priceless

CONTEMPORARY, technical and sporty. Overseas Collection dual timepieces in 18K rose gold, yellow gold and stainless steel

Precious, precious time

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

IT WAS A VACHERON CONSTANTIN wristwatch Katie Holmes gave Tom Cruise as wedding gift. The watch was simply engraved: "I Love You."

We can assume the celebrated watch is most likely to cost six to seven digits in Philippine pesos. But what's in a Vacheron Constantin watch that makes it special, admired and cool, not to mention incredibly expensive?

"It is an investment," said Jean-Michel Paray, VC managing director for Asia Pacific. "It's a sound investment with more than 250 years of uninterrupted history, which is very important in the business."

Paray, who was recently in Manila to launch limited-edition VC models, said VC had had a long track record since 1755, making it the oldest watch manufacturer.

"We never closed the doors of our company even one single day," said Paray. "We never went bankrupt and reopened after that. We've never been taken over by other companies like some other brands. VC has always been up on its feet for centuries to bring only quality products."

This is exactly what people or collectors who invest so much money on watches need to know, he added.

In fact, VC watches do not depreciate. In auctions, VC watches are highly priced. Last year in New York, a VC platinum watch sold for 600,000 Swiss francs (multiply that by P39—do the math).

"The first time I went to China for an event, a young man came up to me to show his VC watch," Paray said. "I asked him, Did you buy that at an auction or at a second-hand shop? He looked at me, a bit angry. He said it came from his grandfather, who was a businessman in China before the war and who collected watches. Before dying he gave the watch to his grandson."

Quality over quantity

Paray believes that in the world of fine timepieces, limited and controlled distribution is key to long-term success. VC has limited production, manufacturing only 17,000 pieces a year which are distributed all over the world. This is also the reason VC is quite expensive, at almost the price of a car.

"We only use the best materials to make our dials, movements, cases, hands, etc. The hands are made of solid 18-karat gold. Not painted or gold-plated. We put solid white or yellow gold or diamonds everywhere in the watch, including the case," Paray said.

JEAN-MICHEL Paray, managing director of Vacheron Constantin Asia Pacific RODEL KOTONI

Each watch is meticulously polished by hand. Even the finishing of the case is not a simple case. It is smooth and sturdy.

"To make watches at this level we also need high-end, high-skilled watch makers," Paray said. "To find skilled watchmakers today is extremely difficult. There's a shortage in the industry. So, you automatically limit yourself in your production because of the lack of trained and skilled makers."

Unlike other popular brands, VC has no image model or endorser.

"First, we don't want to be associated with anybody," Paray said. "Second, we're not a fashion brand. Fashion is something which is dead the day it's born. VC is not in that business. We are very much conservative. We value what we already have and we're confident about it."

But celebrities have worn VC watches, the likes of Nicole Kidman, Elton John and Michael Jackson.

Awesome timepieces

This year, VC presents more exciting and practical timepieces for watch collectors, travelers and aficionados.

Under its sporty Overseas Collection, which is now celebrating its 10th year, VC presents four new Haute Horlogerie Overseas watches, including a yellow-gold chronograph to complement the already much sought-after chronographs in the Overseas Collection.

The Overseas Collection also has three new dual time watches—a limited-edition 18K rose-gold dual time with a unique chocolate-colored dial; a yellow-gold dual time with a traditional Overseas silver guillochéed dial; and the dual time core of the Collection, a dual time in stainless steel, offered in a choice of silver or black guillochéed dials. They are perfect partners for the contemporary traveler.

VC also has the limited-edition of Collection Excellence Platine, which makes use of platinum, a very precious metal. The company initiated the use of platinum in 1820, and has created masterpieces in the precious metal ever since.

Unlike 18K gold, which is 75-percent pure, platinum is 95-percent pure and is found in very few places around the world. In fact, it is 30 times more rare than gold.

Paray said platinum is the perfect choice for a lifetime of wear, its density and weight make it more durable than other metals.

Collectors the world over will also be awed by VC's iconoclastic Maitres Cabinotiers Skeleton Minute Repeater, the world's slimmest skeleton minute-repeater watch. It is distinguished by its highly elaborate decoration in which half of the basic movement has been delicately cut away. The result is lightness and ethereal elegance beyond compare.

In the Philippines, Vacheron Constantin watches are exclusively distributed by Rustan's.

"The Rustan's family has been our faithful partners for many years now," he said, adding that VC sales in Asia were good, representing over 50 percent of its sales worldwide, followed by the American and European markets.

PLATINUM Malte Chronograph is made in a limited edition of 75 pieces.

OPENWORKED Minute Repeater set in platinum or 18K pink gold

MALTE Perpetual Calendar Minute Repeater set in 18K rose gold

"Gusto ko tawag & text forever... basta ba fit sa baon. AYT?"
AYT! Mas swak ang allowance sa Globe

And there's this thing called a hat . . .

By Art Villasanta
Contributor

It's high time Pinoys take a second look at the much-underestimated hat as a fashion accessory

TO SAY THE WEATHER IS WEIRD IS TO flog the obvious.

The new year's just begun and already some days are really crazy: Daytimes are summer hot and some evenings are drenched by rain. How to protect oneself from the wanton weather?

Girls can tote umbrellas. Guys have three choices: (a) Take it on the skin; (b) use an umbrella; or (c) don a hat. Letter C is not usually the correct answer for guys.

If you think about it, our grandfathers were a lot smarter than us. They had the nerve to wear hats.

Hats are dignified accessories. They're a practical defense against the elements and many have a dashing elegance as well.

Among the guys, misplaced "manliness" is probably the main culprit for our present hatless society. And hats such as fedoras and porkpies (that black thing on Spike Lee's head) appear relics of pre-war days.

Teens hardly wear hats. They'd rather wear caps, bonnets, balaclavas and bandanas. The meaner looking, the better.

Sexy fedoras, anyone?

It would be great if someone would make hats suited for what now passes off as "formal" business wear among corporate Filipino males such as call center dudes.

That's a short-sleeved, untucked dress shirt and dark colored slacks. Ties are inappropriate in such casualness. Shoes are mostly black leatherette somethings from China. Most guys can't tell an Oxford from a penny loafer, anyway.

Fedoras immediately come to mind. They're probably the most popular hat because they have a savagely "sexy" appeal.

I'm talking about the Indiana Jones/Humphrey Bogart fedora and the slimmer version with the lower crown and shortened brim (the type worn by Sean Connery when he played James Bond).

Magician and endurance artist David Blaine seems to have an affinity for the fedora, as does senior hip hopper/media mogul Diddy (in white, of course).

For the more adventurous, there's the Stetson, better known as the cowboy hat. But there's also a Stetson dress hat for casual use.

Pinoy hat

Perhaps an enterprising Pinoy can create a truly Filipino fedora that goes well with formal Pinoy wear. This version would have to be quite stylish to be accepted for practical daily use. And you'd have a summer version and rainy season version (waterproof, naturally).

Buntals and *baliwags* (both straw hats) are the traditional Pinoy fedoras. My Lolo Ramon had a *baliwag* as an essential to his formal wear.

Perhaps these hats could be revived in forms more fashionable and acceptable to today's younger buyers (who know practically nothing about hats since they only wear baseball caps).

From fedoras, one can develop "younger" versions of the derby, the homburg and even that ultimate in formal headwear, the top hat. The top hat, by the way, is that shiny black cylinder magicians pull rabbits, doves and assorted items out of.

Yes to Audrey Hepburn

The ladies, especially the stylish younger ones, would look great in hats.

A cloche is a head turner if worn at a rakish angle, and is fashionable day or night. A pillbox is bound to get your attention. Wide-brimmed sunbonnets fashionably decorated are both practical and elegant.

One of my enduring images is that of my Aunt Lily, a fashionable and elegant lady, looking like a goddess in a shimmering evening dress with a silver cloche worn as if it were a majestic crown.

You don't have to wear the stunning number that adorned Audrey Hepburn in the classic movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's." But if you want to make an impression on your date, a magnificent hat is an affair to remember.

And kids, being kids, will seek out cool headwear that makes them stand out. Military-type headwear will probably make it with the kids if done in dazzling colors.

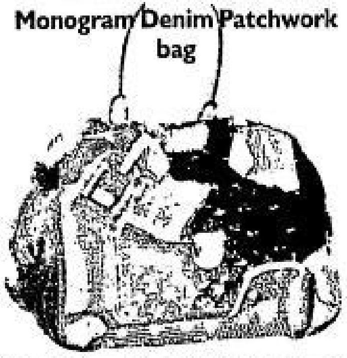
Thus, we might see Pinoy ROTC overseas caps, French *kepis* and berets, American beanies and German *feldmutzen* in all sorts of colors. And accessorized with patches and trinkets, as well.

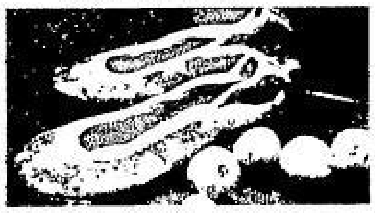
Hats make a lot of practical sense in a country where the weather's either too hot or too wet. And always weird.

'Bayong' chic and other magical reinvention

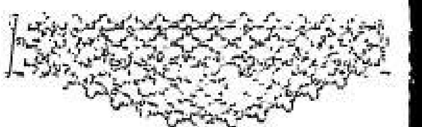
SHIRTDRESS with masculine details

10 kinds of denim for the Monogram Denim Patchwork bag





FLORAL prints for summer footwear



SILVER men's bracelet of interlinked Monogram flowers

GOLD lace detailing on the Monogram Dentelle

From page C1

son. The bag is crafted from thinly braided leather strips with a passport-like stamp of the brand's logo on one side. It comes in two sizes.

After the colorful Murakamis come another eye-catcher, the Polka Dots Flowers, a canvas bag studded with 20 shades of riveted leather button discs with buckles and handles made of hammered gold metal. Other styles come in subtler shades of beige and white canvas, the dots bearing LV's emblems.

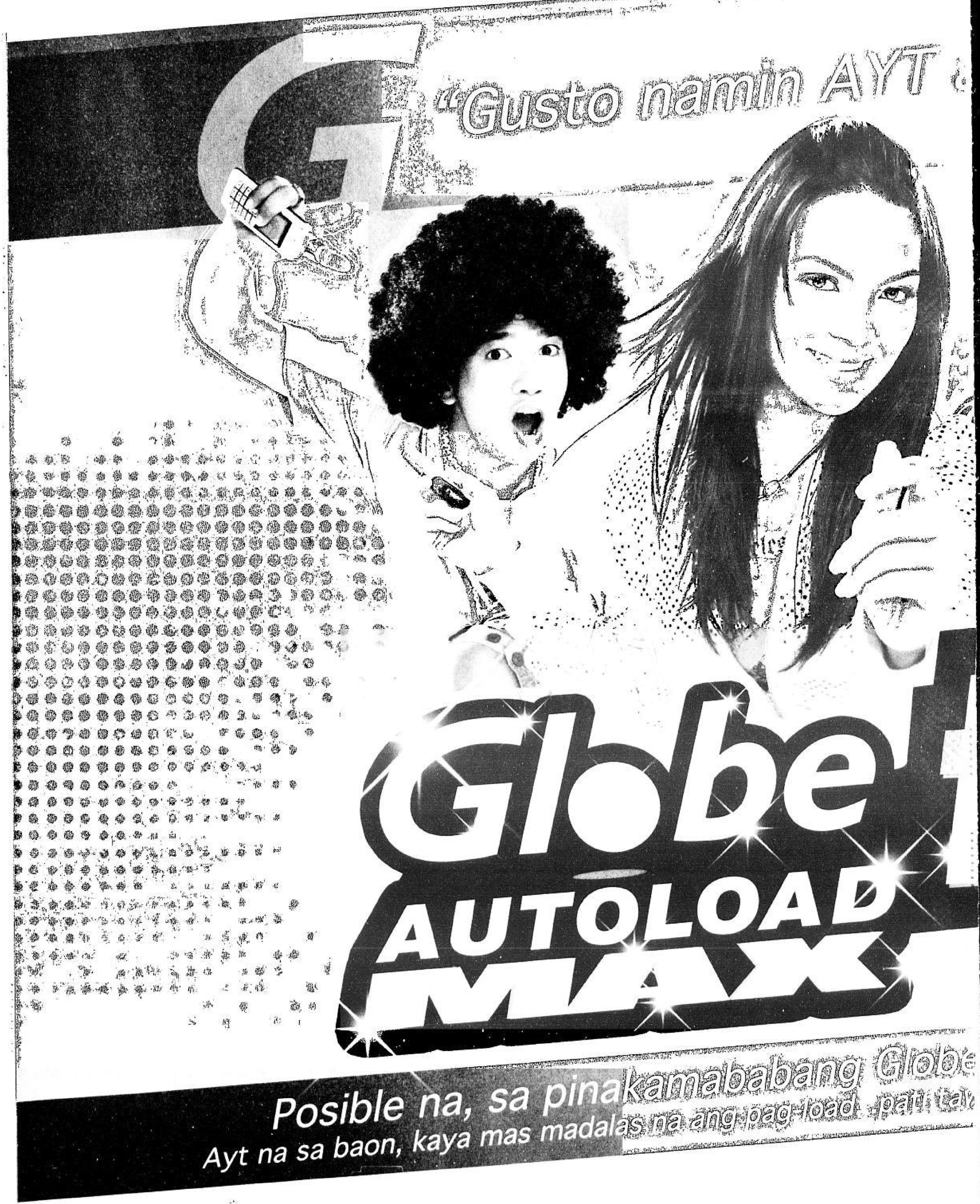
The Monogram Denim, meanwhile, is updated into a patchwork style using a variety of 10 denims, some bleached or faded for that worn, vintage-y look. The Monogram Dentelle also gets an update as it's embroidered with metal lace motifs in both silver and gold. The Monogram also comes in quilted supple-soft lambskin with a twisted rope handle.

Tribute

Never question Jacobs' ability to surprise. Or, shock. The Parisian label introduces this spring The Tribute Bag, a design that combines 15—yes, 15!—of LV's most popular bag styles in one limited-edition style. It's a tad over-the-top, but its limited quantity may just make it one of the season's most coveted handbags.

The fairy motif spills onto women's footwear with platform sandals in brocade floral satin fabrics. The hollowed-out heels were inspired by teacup handles.

For men, it will be hard to miss this season's Hawaiian hibiscus print shirts, ties and scarves (a Keepall for men also comes in this pattern). Similar scene-stealers are the men's metallic gold oxfords (the kind that, members of the Philippine press agreed, had Tim Yap's name written on it), "Louis" brooches studded with Swarovski crystals, and a chain-mail



"Gusto namin AYT
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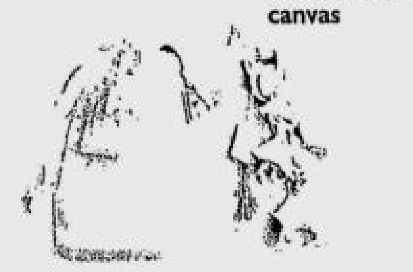
Posible na, sa pinakamababang Globe
Ayt na sa baon, kaya mas madalas na ang pag-load, pati tav

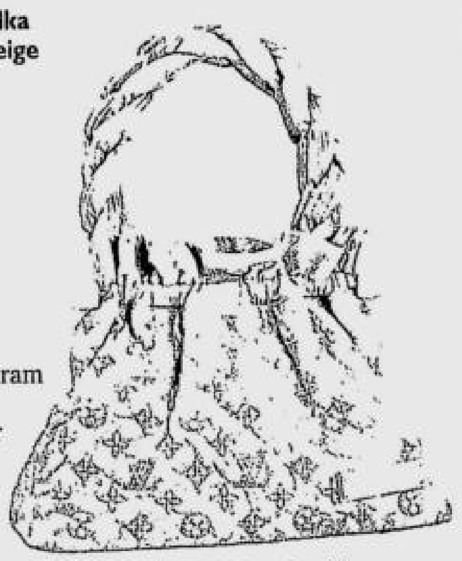


GOLD polka dots on beige canvas

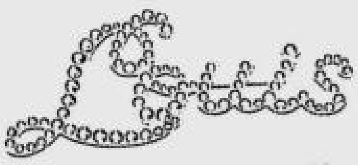
silver bracelet of interlinked Monogram flowers.

Women will be also coveting their husband's and boyfriend's oversized satchels, and a standout shopper with oversized front pockets in kangaroo hide.

Expected to be a top seller here, according to LV Philippines' Pamela Picazo, however, is a simple women's shopper sequined with the word "LoVe," or "LVoe," depending on how you look at it. The chief designer, Jacobs, was quoted as saying, "There's no love without LV." It comes in beige canvas and two jewel satin shades. A T-shirt with similar embroidery will be made available here by special order (LV apparel isn't sold in the Philippines).

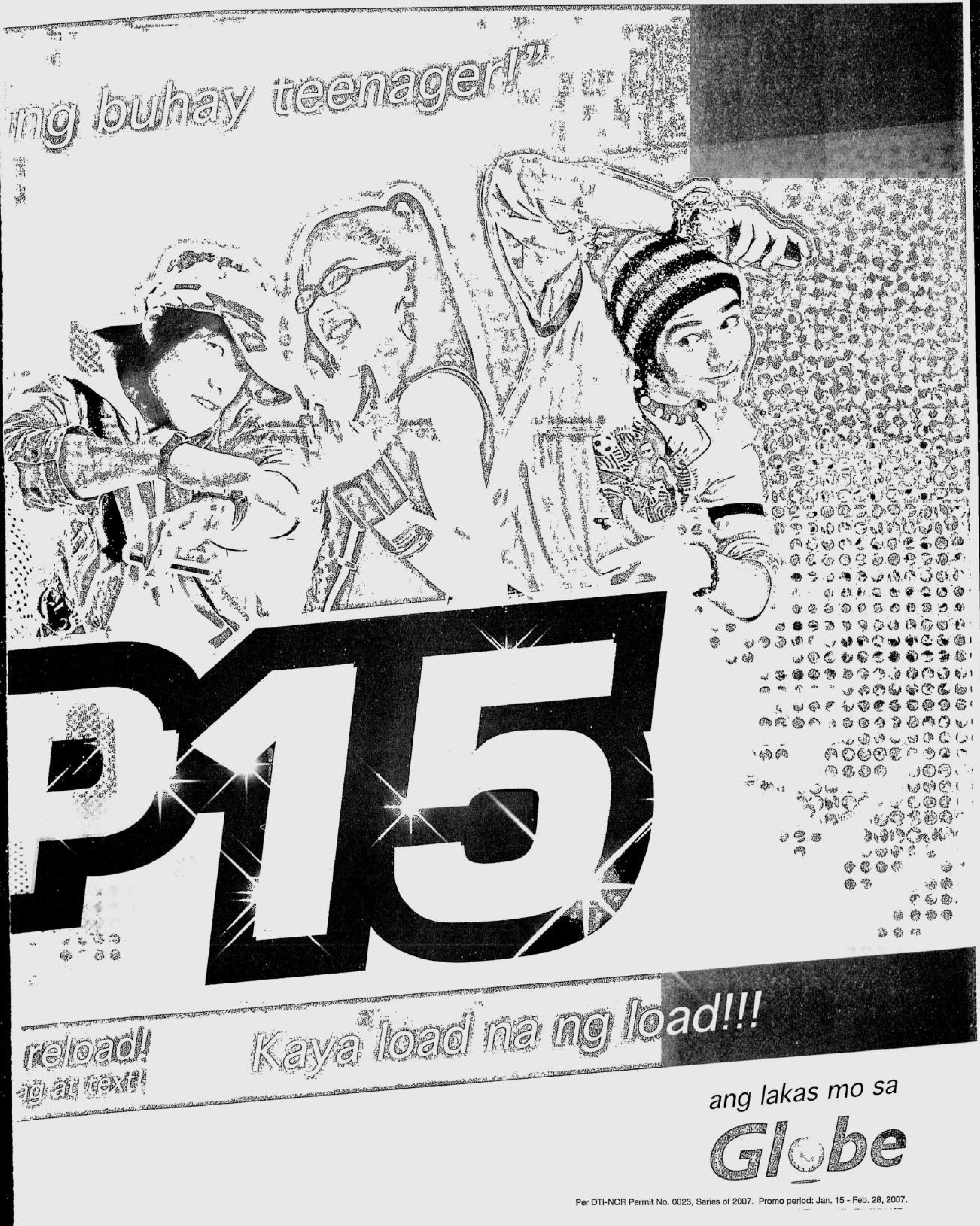


MONOGRAM embroidery on quilted lambskin



MEN'S brooch with Swarovski rhinestones

HIBISCUS prints, metallic leather and two-tone canvas shoes, Roman sandals and oversized satchels for men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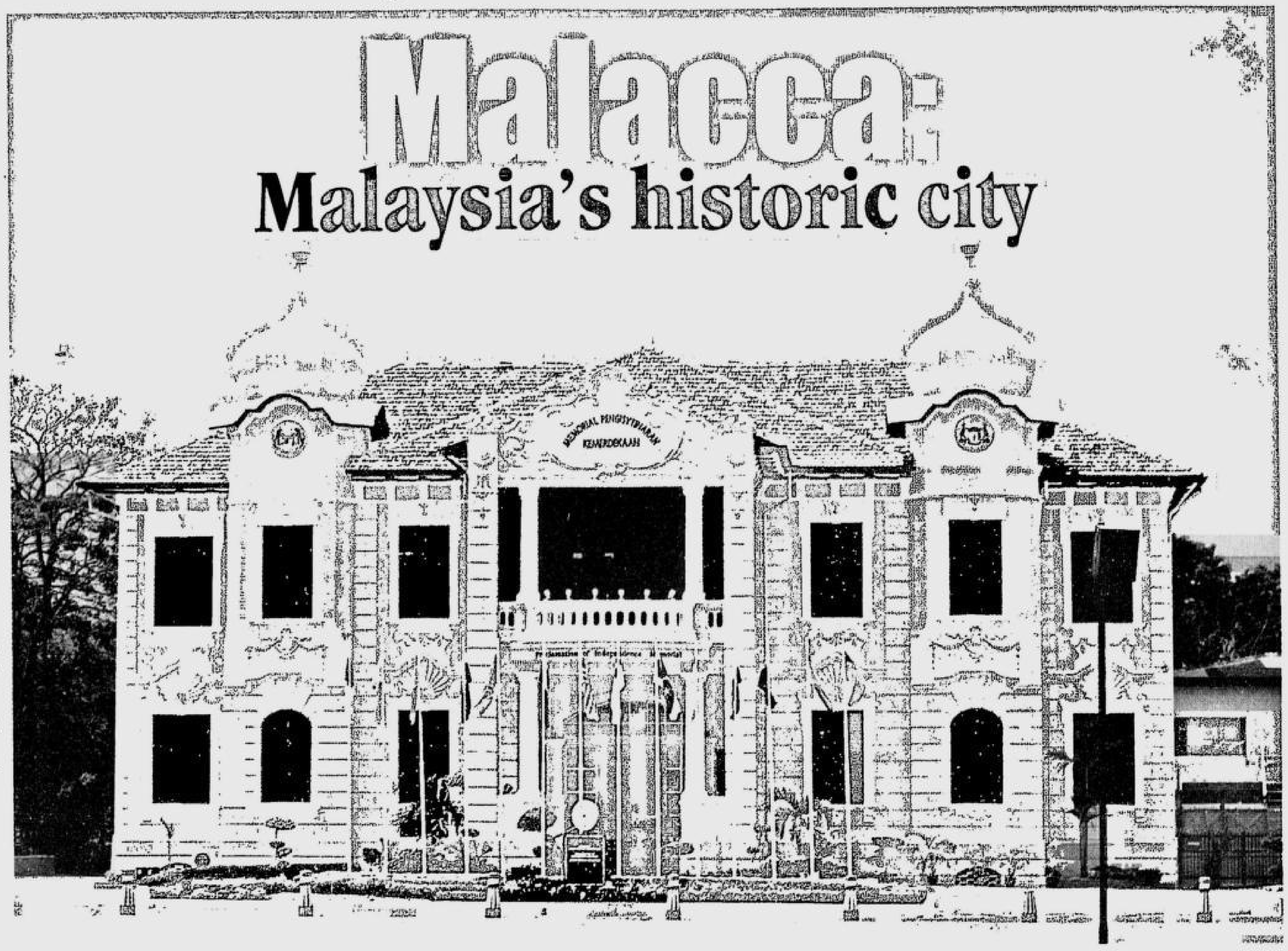
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0023, Series of 2007. Promo period: Jan. 15 - Feb. 28, 2007.

Malacca:
Malaysia's historic city

Don't miss famous sights such as the A'Famosa, Stadthuys, Christ Church, the Clock Tower, various temples, and the Proclamation of Independence Memorial



PROCLAMATION of Independence Memorial

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos

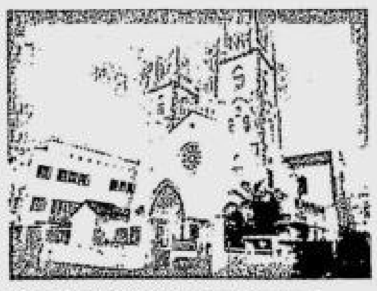
NEXT YEAR, OUR Southeast Asian neighbor Malaysia will celebrate its 50 years of nationhood. A country of 25 million, the country was colonized by various European forces for more than 600 years. Malaysia achieved its independence in 1957 when nationalistic sentiments grew after World War II.

Though still a young country, Malaysia's rich and colorful history did not begin only after the shouts of "Merdeka!"—that famous battle cry ("independence" in Malay) of the people demanding independence from its colonizers.

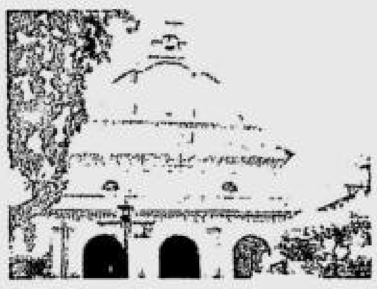
Led by its first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's flag was raised for the first time on Aug. 31, 1957, in its former seat of power, Malacca.

Thus, the country's early history can be traced back to this place, one of Malaysia's 13 states.

Once a robust trading center with its spice, gold, silk, tea, opium, tobacco and perfumes that connected the East and West, Malacca became a place where people from various cultures intermingled. It attracted Southeast Asian, Chinese, Indian, as well as European traders.



ST. FRANCIS Xavier Church



CHRIST Church

During the Age of Exploration, it was one of the most-sought places by various European forces. It was considered an important seat of power for them. This was the reason why this nation had three European colonizers—first the Portuguese in 1511, then the Dutch in 1641, and finally the British in 1824.

Your journey to Malacca would surely be a walk down memory lane. With different colonial powers having occupied it, historical sites are therefore aplenty in the city, retaining an Old-World charm that reflects the Portuguese, Dutch and English cultures.

When you visit Malacca, don't miss its famous sights such as the A'Famosa, Stadthuys, Christ Church, the Clock Tower, its various temples and the Proclamation of Independence Memorial. Also, take a nostalgic ride with a trishaw traversing its narrow streets. And bring home some colorful slippers.

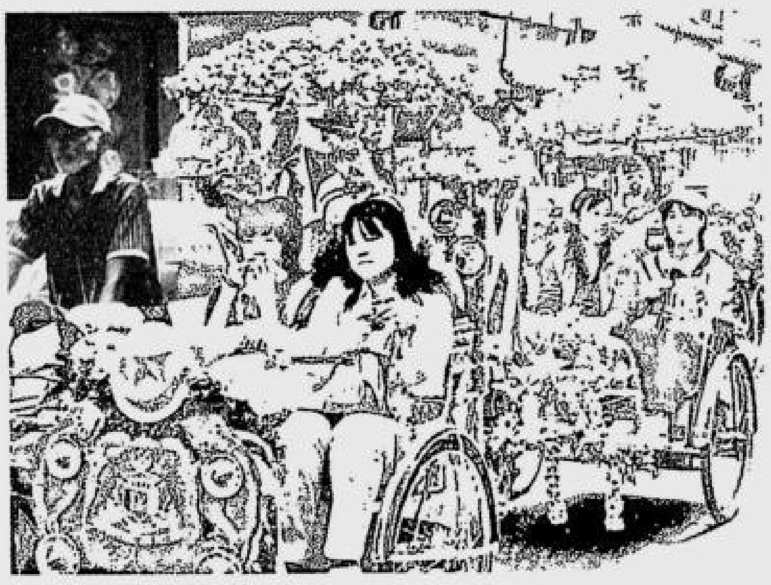
Historical city

Melaka (its present spelling) is located about 120 km east of Kuala Lumpur. Founded by Hindu prince Parameswara from Sumatra around 1400, a small settlement formed the first Malacca Sultanate.

At present, the city is divided into the new and old sections. Much of the remnants of Malacca's glorious past lie within the Town Square and the waterfront area near the river. Just above the Town Square is St. Paul's Hill (Bukit St. Paul) which is the site of the original Portuguese fort of A'Famosa and St. Paul's Church.

The new section of Malacca lies across the Malacca River and is mostly built on land reclaimed from the sea. It contains modern shopping centers like the Mahkota Parade and is a food and entertainment district.

A'Famosa



TRISHAWS

Considered the hallmark of Malacca and perhaps the most photographed colonial building and regarded as the city's icon, A'Famosa (Porta De Santiago), was built by the founder of the Portuguese empire in the East—Alfonso d'Albuquerque.

After the Portuguese captured Malacca in 1511, they proceeded to build a city wall around it in 1512. This wall fortress protected them from attacks from native inhabitants that tried to recapture it, and from the invading Dutch.

In 1641, Malacca fell to the Dutch after a long siege. Its new rulers then rebuilt and fortified the fortress. However, in 1795, it was exchanged by the Dutch to the English with Bencoolen in Sumatra during the Napoleanic Wars.

In 1807, under William Farquar, the English began demolishing the A'Formosa fort and surrounding walls with dynamite and transferred the city's population to Penang.

The timely intervention of Sir Stamford Raffles in 1808 saved the city from destruction. Unfortunately, only the "Gateway" survived, and has remained standing to this day.

Christ Church

The Stadthuys is Malacca's oldest Dutch building. It served as the official residence of Dutch governors. Today, it is the Historic and Ethnography Museum.

Quaint little shops on the side sell souvenirs and local handicraft. Other heritage sites here include the Queen Victoria Fountain, a small clock tower and mini windmill.

Christ Church, meanwhile, is a fine example of Dutch architecture using timber. The exquisite craftsmanship of this church dating back to 1153 is best seen in the handmade pews as well as in the ceiling beams which were constructed without joints.

Built in the late 1980s, Portuguese Square was styled after a typical Portuguese *mercado* and is noted for its food and cultural dances. It is also affectionately referred to as "Mini Lisbon."

Located on the Portuguese settlement, it has a central courtyard with several restaurants and souvenir stalls. Residents live in the vicinity in homes on Portuguese-named lanes.

Other places to see

There are lots of other interesting places to see in Malacca. Notable are the 'various temples of different faiths on Jalan Tokong Street, at the Maritime Museum and the Our Lady of the Hill Church.

The Kampung Keling Mosque is one of the oldest in Malaysia. This mosque features a three-pier pyramid-shaped roof instead of a conventional dome, and a minaret that resembles a pagoda typical of Sumatran architecture.

The Maritime Archaeology Museum, meanwhile, is based on the sunken and restored Portuguese ship, Flor de la Mar. The museum exhibits maps, models of ancient ships and other marine paraphernalia.

Climbing up St. Paul's Hill past the Stadthuys, you will see the Our Lady of the Hill Church, built by Portuguese captain Duerte Coelho.

After the Dutch conquest of Malacca, the church was converted into a burial ground and renamed St. Paul's Church. The revered missionary St. Francis Xavier was temporarily enshrined here in 1553.

Getting there

The trip to Malacca takes about two hours by road from Kuala Lumpur. Several tour agents and hotels in the capital offer packages to Malacca for weekend or day trips. Taxi and express bus services are also easily available.

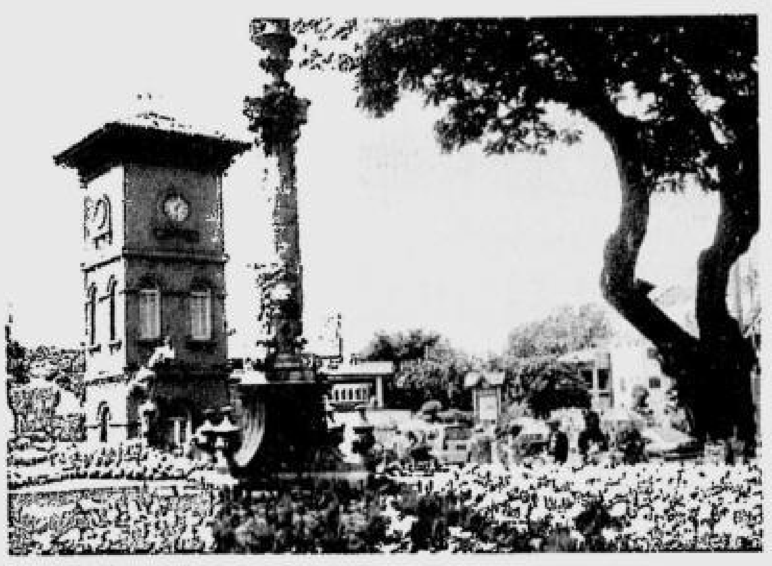
The Puduraya Bus Terminal has bus services to Malacca daily. Tickets can be purchased at the station but during the festive season it is advisable to book ahead. The Puduraya terminal is the same station where one can take a bus trip to Singapore.

Malacca has no railway station on its own, and the nearest station is on the main north-south line at Tampin which is still about 38 km north. Visitors traveling by rail would have to disembark at Tampin. From there, they can take a bus or taxi.

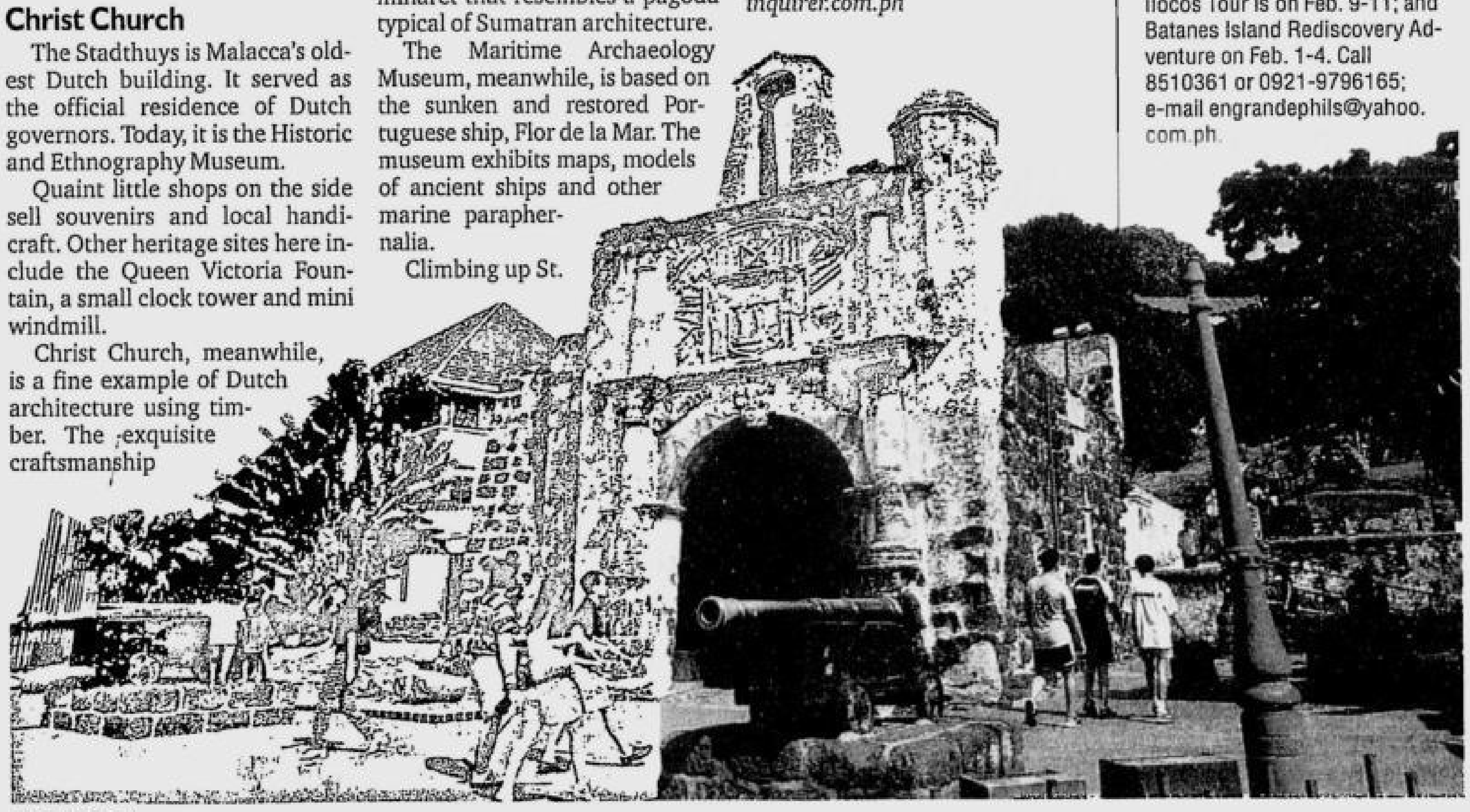
In Malacca, you can get around by taxi or bus. The local bus station, express bus terminal and taxi stations are all located around the same area on Jalan Hang Tuah.

So if you think a visit to Malaysia would only be all about climbing up the world's tallest buildings—the Petronas Towers—or getting high on world-class rides at the nearby Genting Highlands, why not take a side trip to Malacca? It would surely be worth your while.

E-mail the author at jnigos@inquirer.com.ph



CLOCK Tower



A' FAMOSA

TRAVELBRIEFS

Special cruise rates

American Express-Adventure International Tours, Inc. offers travelers the chance to go on a Crystal Cruise. The general sales agent for the luxury cruise brand said special savings fares were available for selected cruises, with rates as low as $1,890 for a seven-day cruise. Special savings fares are available on cruises to the Mediterranean, Western Europe, Baltic Sea, Russia. Call at 8674888 (Makati), 5248681-84 (Malate), 6891051-54 (SM Megamall) and (032) 2322968/70 (Cebu).

Special meeting package

The Bellevue Grand Ballroom offers clubs, organizations and business companies special meeting packages for seminars, conventions and get-together. The package includes use of the function room, morning and afternoon snacks, coffee and tea service. Half-day meeting costs P950++ per person for a minimum of 10 and P1,150++ per person for a minimum of 30, inclusive of one snack and sit-down or buffet lunch or dinner. A whole day meeting costs P1,200++ per person for a minimum of 10 and P1,400++ per person for a minimum of 30, inclusive of two snacks and sit-down or buffet lunch or dinner. Call 7718181.

Travel tours

This February, Engrande Travel invites tourists to see and experience the richness of the North in Ilocos, Banaue and Batanes—the beauty of nature, unique culture and authentic food. Banaue tour with Sagada is set on Feb. 2-4; Ilocos Tour is on Feb. 9-11; and Batanes Island Rediscovery Adventure on Feb. 1-4. Call 8510361 or 0921-9796165; e-mail engrandephils@yahoo.com.ph.

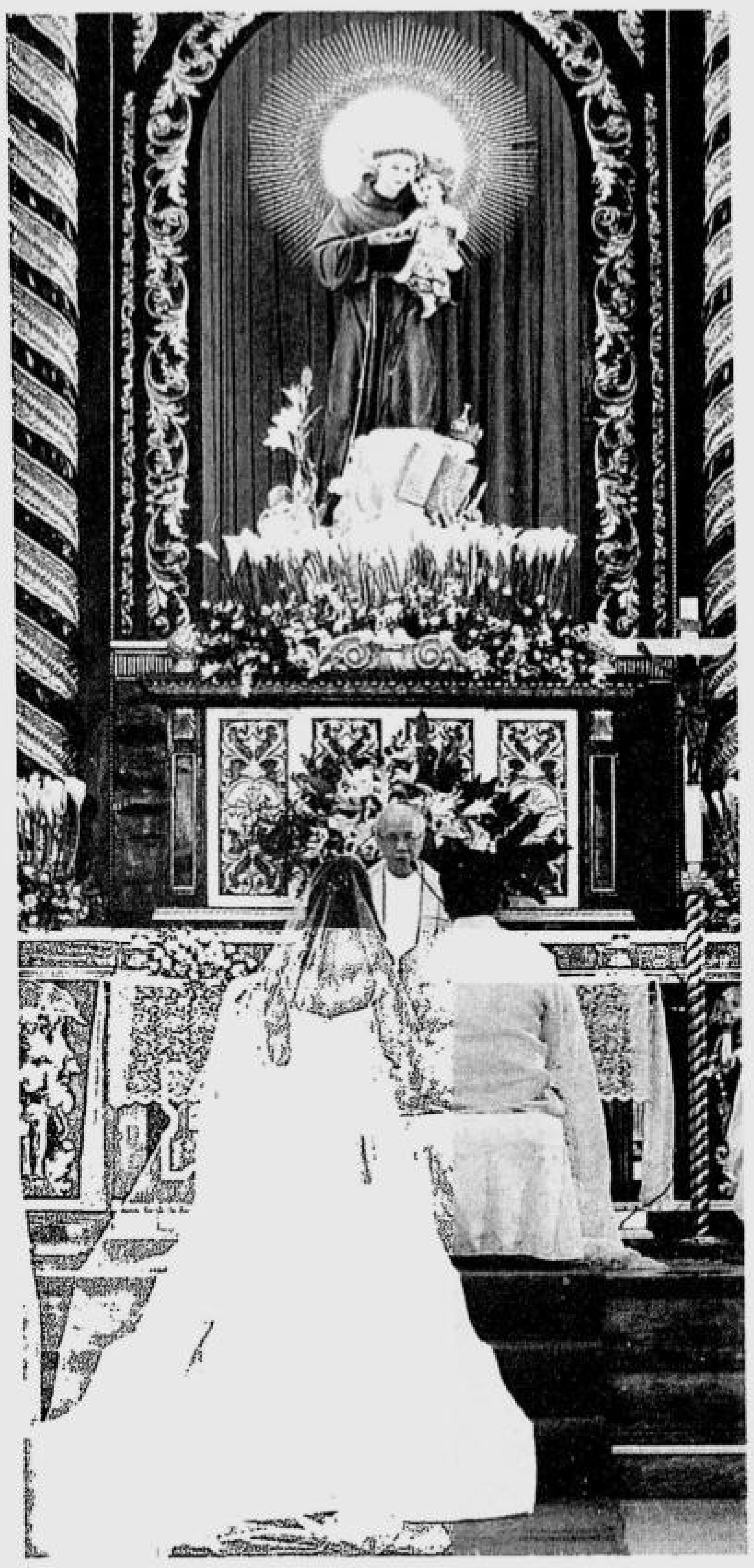
BRIDE'S parents Greg and Ivy Formoso

THE GROOM with mom Marlyn and dad Peter Ortiz

ORTIZ-FORMOSO NUPTIALS

An auspicious day to begin a new life together

NEWLYWEDS Philip and Joanne Ortiz (nèe Formoso)



By Ivy S. Formoso
Contributor

TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNing of Nov. 11 was my daughter Joanne's wedding date with Philip.

The day did not have any special significance to the young couple. But the Santuario de San Antonio would not be free again until March 2007.

My *balae*, Marlyn Ortiz, and I were at first suspicious. Why did other couples not reserve this date? Was it bad *feng sui*? I started making amateurish numerology readings and the date added up to a good number.

And everything seemed to fall into place. Makati Shangri-La's Quezon Ballroom was available on the date and time requested. The next challenge was finding a wedding gown designer.

After their first visit with Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Joanne and Philip were convinced she was the one. Len accepted only one wedding a week and Nov. 11 was still open on her calendar.

Then the couple had to find an excellent photographer they could be comfortable with. They instantly trusted Danny Wong Barrenechea's ability to capture in photos and video one of the most memorable events in their lives. Fortunately, there was a cancellation in Danny's schedule so he became available on Nov. 11.

BRIDE'S aunts Cherie and Dittas Formoso and Ana Tuaño

Rave reviews

My friends Tess Angala and Leng Richmond, who left corporate life and set up Giftsandstuff, patiently crafted by hand the invitations, which received rave reviews from the guests.

Not believing in coincidences, Marlyn and I decided the Lord must have chosen the date for Philip and Joanne's marriage.

The couple decided not to hire a wedding planner, but they needed someone to manage the day's activities. My sister-in-law, Stella Formoso Capinpuyan, agreed to do the job *gratis et amore*.

I knew then, with the Lord's blessing and Stella's legendary skills in managing events, nothing would go wrong.

The beautiful wedding would have brought tears to any mother's (and father's) eyes. I was watching my husband Greg's nostalgic expression as the church doors opened.

The rays of the sun made the scene almost ethereal as Joanne, statuesque and beautiful in her wedding gown, walked toward my husband and me. I was watching him because I knew I was going to cry if I continued to look at my dear daughter.

Moving

The groom's dad, Peter, was equally moved when Philip met Joanne at the altar and the "handover" was completed.

The choir, consisting of some members of the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers and the Ateneo Chamber Chorale, sang "Here Comes the Bride" in German, giving the wedding march a classical and romantic touch.

> My 'balae' Marlyn and I decided the Lord must have chosen this day for Philip and Joanne's wedding

YOU may kiss the bride.

Em Macanaya of the UP Madrigal Singers and Joanne's cousin, made sure that the musical selection would enhance the solemn but joyful ambiance. Liezel Escobar and Joy Alegro took their roles as maid-of-honor and bridesmaid, respectively, very seriously and attended solicitously to the bride.

The *ninangs* were resplendent in their celadon-green and champagne gowns, and the *ninongs* marched so regally in their barong Tagalog. The bouquets of colorful flowers carried by the entourage created a happy spring-fresh effect, just what Nana Estrera of Sonata Flowers wanted. The church flower arrangements were perfect. Pristine calla lilies elegantly adorned the altar.

Affirmation

The most memorable part of the wedding was the Mass itself celebrated by Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and Fr. Alberto Ampil, both from the Society of Jesus. When Fr. Ben said in his homily: "Now you know that there is no need to wait any longer; you are to each other the one, who will give your lives endless growth and fulfillment," the young couple's decision to get married after more than five years of friendship was affirmed once more.

Fr. Bert had coached Philip and Joanne weeks before the wedding, preparing them for the exchange of vows with hearts full of joy and love. He stressed that they should also have fun on their wedding day, and to embrace humor as an important ingredient in their relationship.

The wedding reception at the Makati Shangri-La's newly renovated Quezon Ballroom capped the day. The flower centerpieces were beautifully arranged and the potpourri of fruits and nuts on the tables added to the grandeur of the reception.

A string quartet provided live music, while cousins and nieces performed musical numbers.

Reunited long-lost friends and relatives chatted happily and laughed heartily, enjoying the magnificent food. Everyone wore a smile.

THE NEWLYWEDS with their sponsors. Front row: Dr. Rose Fuentes, Aleta Suarez, Milagros Alegro, Dr. Rolly Tuaño, Reynaldo Palmiery and Vince Formoso. Back row: Evelyn Roman, Lina David, Chelo Banal-Formoso, Emy Palmiery, Pilar Escobar, Jess Uchi, Aristeo Zafra Jr., Romeo Tan, Ed David and Benjamin Quiñones

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

CABALLERO-PARAYNO

Fernando Caballero, son of **Cipriano Sr.** and **Carmelita Caballero**, recently married **Nova Parayno**, daughter of **Felipe** and **Raquel Parayno**, in a civil wedding officiated by Judge **Perla Cabrera-Paler** at Regional Trial Court in Imus, Cavite.

DIGNADICE-FLORES

Ray Daniel A. Dignadice, son of **Tyne C. Dignadice Sr.** (†) and **Ma. Teresa A. Dignadice**, wed recently **Frances Elaine F. Flores**, daughter of **José Expedito** and **Evelyn Flores** at St. Peregrine Church, Tunasan, Muntinlupa. **Joel Escober** designed the bridal gown.

MONZON-CUSTODIO

Dr. **Johann D.C. Monzon** and **Leah Marie Custodio** were married on Dec. 26, 2006, at Gourmet's Café, Silang, Cavite.

BAROÑA-LIM

Ricky A. Baroña, son of **Renato** and **Norma Baroña**, married recently **Jenny S. Lim**, daughter of **Renato** and **Lily Lim**, at the Basilica de San Sebastian. Dinner reception was held at Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The bride wore a **Malou Castillejos** creation.

RAMPAL-GLORIA

Nitin Rampal, son of **Naveen** and **Indira Rampal**, and **Sheena Gloria**, daughter of **Prisco Sergio** and **Rosario Gloria**, married recently at San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception was held at Patio Victoria. The Filipiniana-inspired bridal gown and the groom's piña barong were designed and executed by **Junjun Cambe**.

MANSUETO-DE LOS REYES

Vicente Mansueto, son of **Herminio** (†) and **Jovita Mansueto**, and **Leilani de los Reyes**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Lilia de los Reyes**, will tie the knot Jan. 27. **Rev. Fr. Remo Bati** will officiate the ceremony at the San Ildefonso Parish Church in Pio del Pilar, Makati City. Reception will follow at Garden Place in Bangkal, also in Makati City. The bride will wear a princess-cut gown of white duchess satin by **John Robert** of Drezzee Boutique.

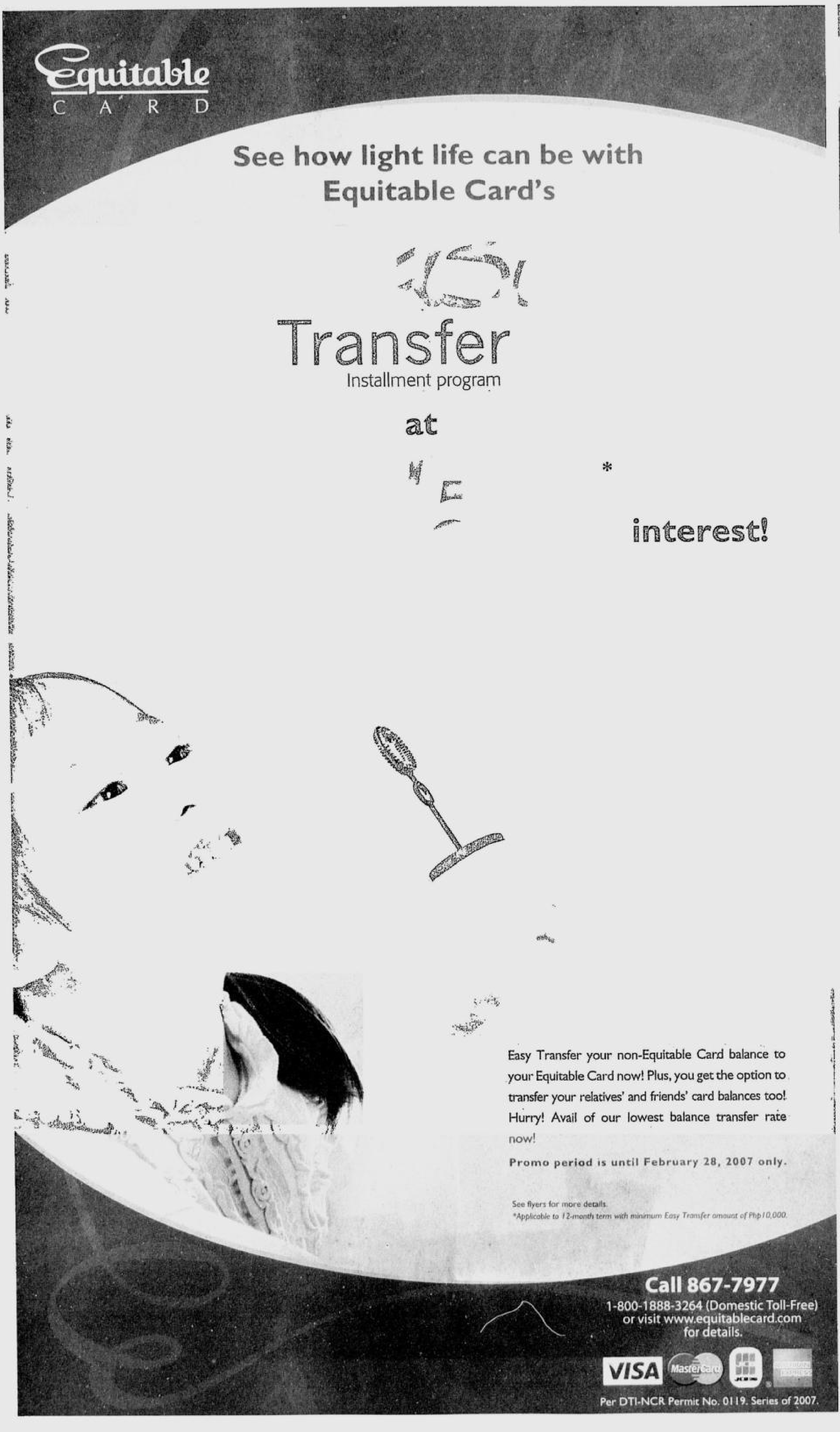
PAGDONSOLAN-MATIBAG

Erwin Pagdonsolan, son of **Alberto** and **Manuela Pagdonsolan**, will wed **Glenn Matibag**, daughter of **Pablo** (†) and **Anacleta Matibag**, Jan. 28 at Taal Basilica, Taal, Batangas. Reception will follow at Casa Cecilia Heritage Hotel, Taal, Batangas.

Weddings and debut fair

ISLAND EXHIBIT LINK IS PREsenting The Ultimate Weddings & Debut Fair Year 3 Jan. 26-28 at SM Megamall, Bldg. B, Megatrade Hall 3. The fair will offer unique gift ideas and souvenirs for debuts and weddings featuring designers like Regine Tolentino and Renee Salud.

Visitors will see a display of gowns, Barong Tagalog and suits, and jewelry representing projected trends this 2007. Call 4040474, 3030906, log on to www.islandexhibit.com or e-mail kim@islandexhibit.com.



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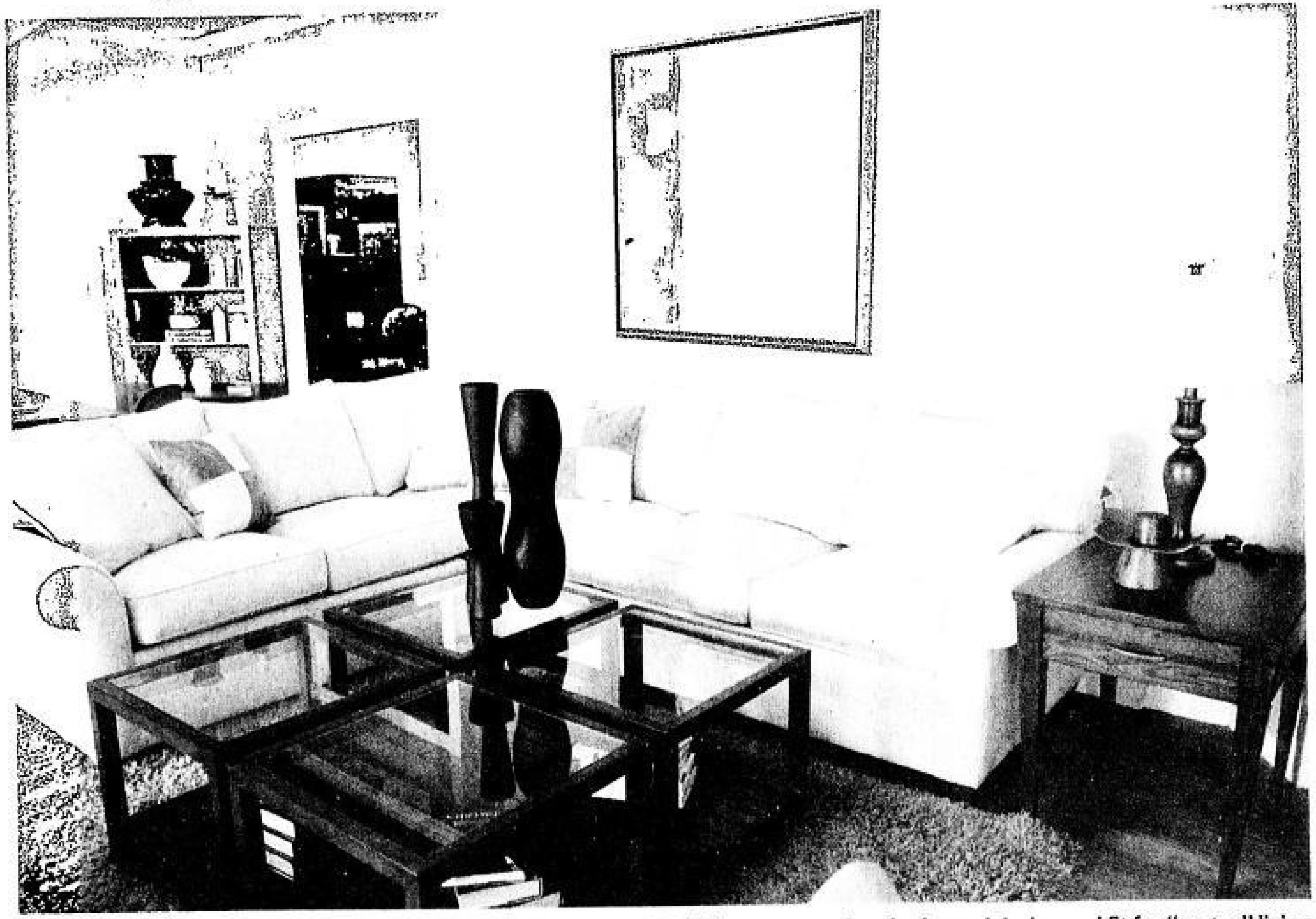
JACK DEKORNE, vice president-retail relations, Ethan Allen

Asian metropolitan spaces

Ethan Allen adopts Asian motifs but with a pared-down, cosmopolitan spirit

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina



MINIMALIST lines, contrasting shades and dark wood fit for "metro" living

NOT A FEW FILIPINOS STILL prefer "classical" American- and English-style furniture, but a growing number of younger homeowners are now more open to eclectic yet pared-down pieces with Asian touches that conform to their limited living spaces as well as their no-frills lifestyle.

American Jack deKorne, Ethan Allen's vice president for retail relations, made this observation during a recent trip to Manila, which coincided with the brand's 10th anniversary in the Philippines.

Before the year is over, Ethan Allen plans to introduce globally two very different collections that mirror these current trends or, as DeKorne described them: "metro lifestyle."

One lifestyle, a Zen-inspired showcase, addresses the needs of young, busy professionals. Billed "Horizon Studio," it consists of simplified and contemporary pieces with strong, horizontal lines primarily made of dark, coffee-stained wood. Each piece, DeKorne assured, is strong and versatile enough to stand on its own or complement most other pieces.

"They're designed for young, multitasking individuals and couples whose lives revolve around work, culture and personal relaxation," he said. "These are people whose lifestyles are much less cluttered, much more functional, but who also appreciate the beauty of line, form and function."

The other lifestyle revolves around glamour that harks back to old Hollywood before

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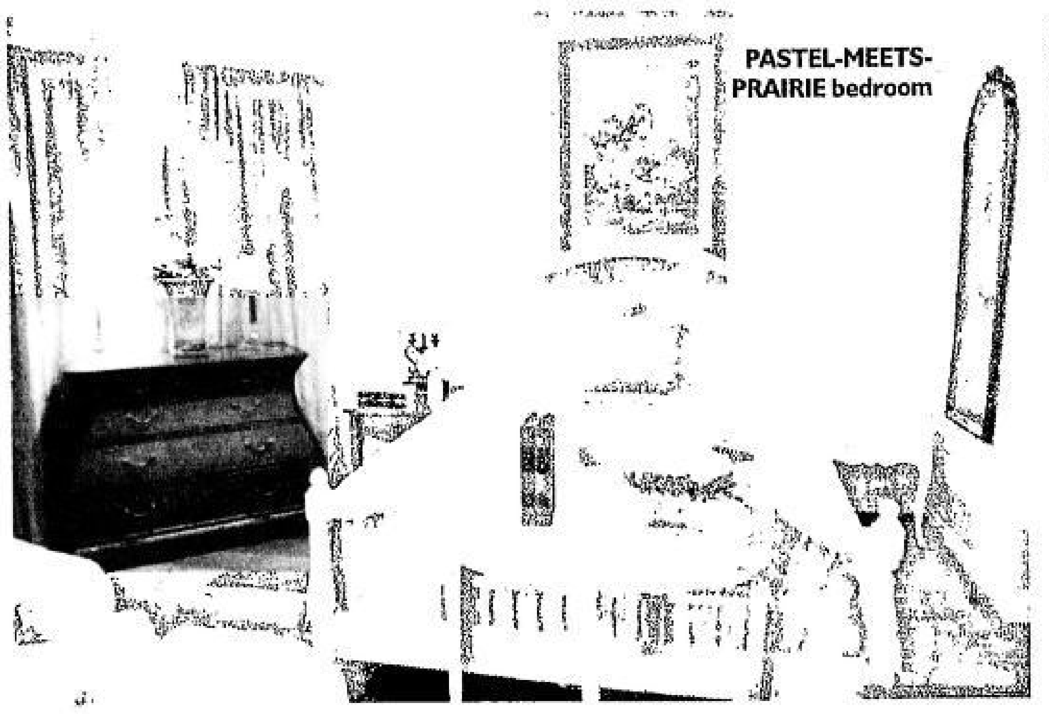
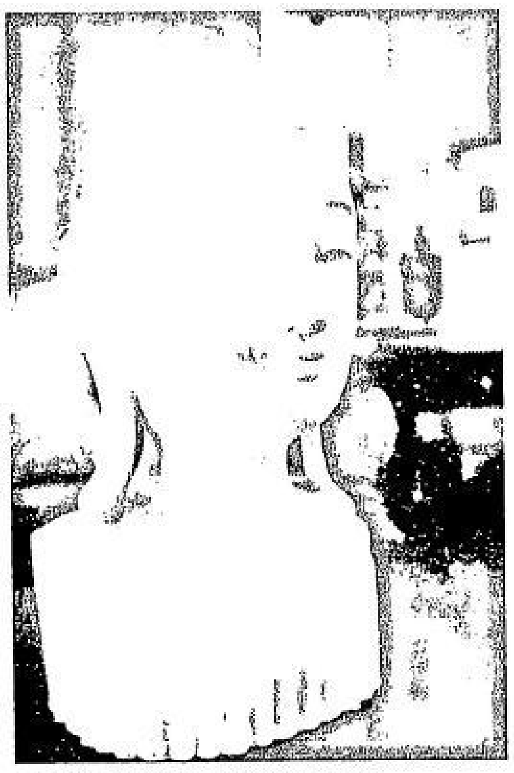


PASTEL-MEETS-PRAIRIE bedroom

Asian metropolitan spaces



BUDDHA for that Oriental touch

From page D1

the likes of Lindsay Lohan, Nicole Ritchie and Paris Hilton came to the scene. Despite the presence of intricate veneer work drawn from Art Deco themes, the pieces are reportedly simple, upscale and very urban.

"The look is reminiscent of Hollywood in the 1920s and '30s, not Hollywood today," said DeKorne. "It was a glamorous era when stars were larger than life."

Ash and primavera

Ethan Allen would be using a great deal of ash and primavera veneer as well as handsome and exotic zebra-wood veneer.

DeKorne believed these materials, particularly in the glamour collection, are bound to generate a great deal of interest.

"As for upholstery," he said, "we see a number of trends as far as colors are concerned. Right now, the most important style direction tends to move toward mineral tones and cool blues and greens."

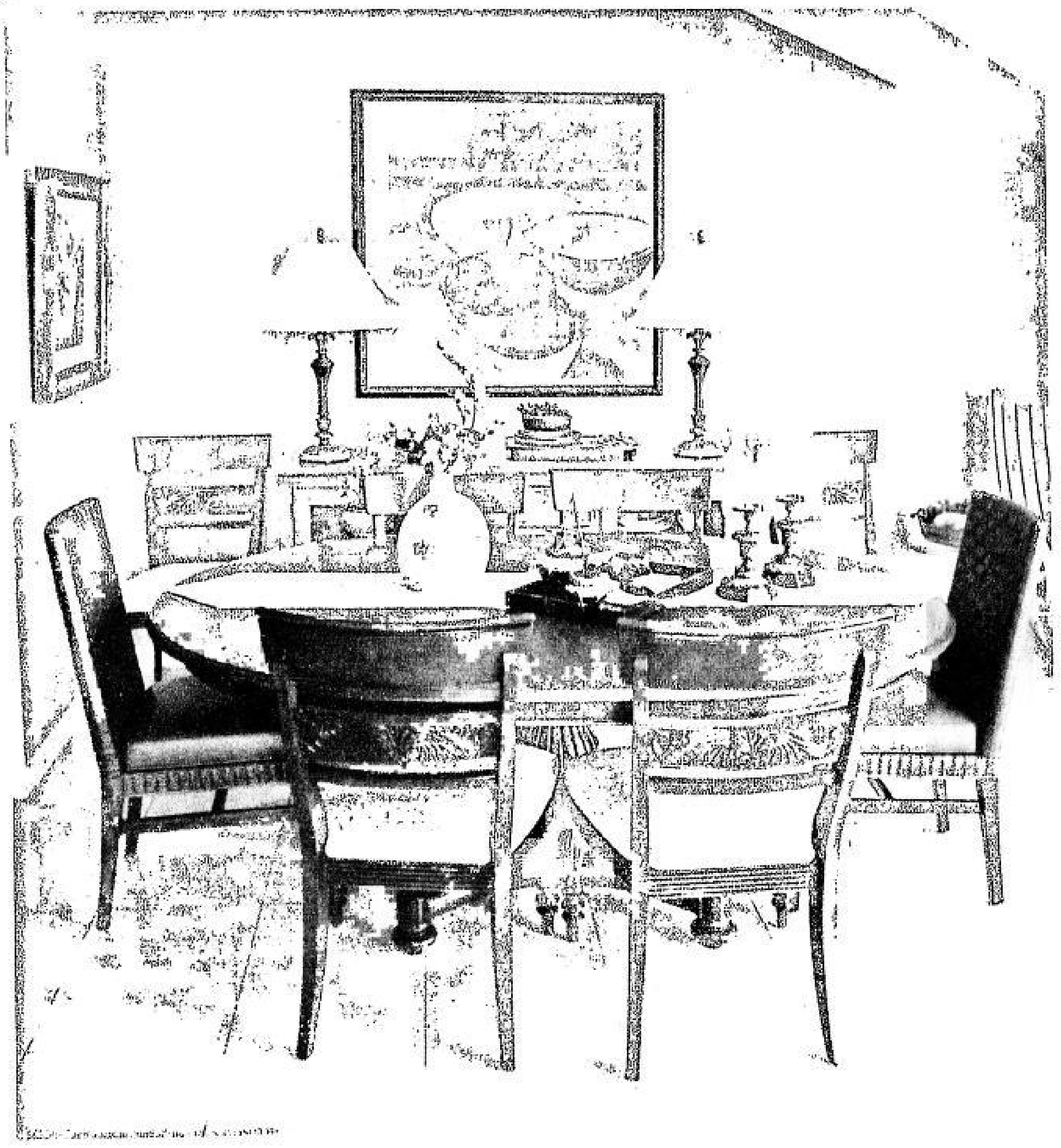
In spite of its sheer size and global presence, Ethan Allen believes in leaving nothing to chance. With 302 stores all over the world, the 75-year-old company remains to this day a "vertically integrated" entity based in Connecticut. As such, it still controls the manufacture, distribution and marketing of its furniture products. It's represented locally by Focus Global.

Their tight rein on the enterprise notwithstanding, people at Ethan Allen are quick on their feet when it comes to anticipating and responding to trends. In less than five years, for instance, they were able to expand the brand's customer base to include young couples and swinging singles in their 20s and 30s.

"We've built our reputation among people aged 35-55," said DeKorne. "They continue to be a strong element of our customer base. What we're most pleased about is the younger consumers' acceptance of our new styles."

It may not be a revolutionary move, but it was still quite difficult to pull off given Ethan Allen's size. If anything, it was a practical and timely one in an era of globalization.

"Our customer base has become younger



SIMPLE yet textured finish imparts a "home-sweet-home" feel.

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Ethan Allen's design inspiration has become more global

PADDED sofa combines colors and materials for an updated look.

and much more diverse," DeKorne added. "We've been focused on developing products which will reach these younger consumers. As a matter of fact, over 80 percent of our product lines have changed during the last three years."

Such a response, apart from addressing the growing popularity of condo living, dovetails with Ethan Allen's thrust to promote lifestyles in lieu of collections. The approach allows it more flexibility in presenting key items designed to work or blend with a customer's existing pieces.

Personal shopping

In spite of the market's growing diversity (or perhaps because of it), more and more people are finding ways to express themselves through their furniture. In a global economy, shopping for, say, a sofa or armoire has become as personal as buying a pair of shoes.

As a result, Ethan Allen's furniture designers are finding themselves spending more and more time outside the United States in search of inspirations. They scour Italy, France and key regions in Asia to look for emerging trends within and beyond the world of interior design.

"In a sense, we're like a fashion house," said DeKorne. "A style department coordinates and gathers various influences and ideas and puts them together to come up with an Ethan Allen-style point of view."

A mere mortal, no matter how deep his/her pockets are, is bound to experience sensory overload while wading through hundreds of lifestyle options available at Ethan Allen's packed showroom in Mandaluyong.

Not to worry. Well-rounded interior designers, staples in every Ethan Allen showroom, are on hand to help the clueless make sensible choices. In fact, the company has fielded close to 3,000 designers in its design centers.

"Our business is built around the individual designer," he said. "That person can discuss what needs to be solved in a particular situation. That makes us different from most furniture companies. Ours is a one-on-one, consumer-driven approach."

DeKorne offered no apologies or excuses for Ethan Allen's reputation for being pricey. Their main focus is to provide the "best value in pricing our products to consumers."

"Certainly, when you add a certain amount of detail, finished execution and rich wood, and build pieces the way we do," he said, "the cost will be higher than when you're building pieces that are less expensive."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

New cookware for new year

WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE PIG with new pots, pans and casseroles from Beka, a trusted German brand offering premium-grade stainless-steel cookware.

The Beka Gastronom Copper Cookware five-piece gift set is made of Tri-Ply material. Its interior is made of 18/10 stainless steel while its base is made of aluminum and 2.5-mm thick copper for excellent heat conduction. The matte finish inside and mirror finish outside give it an elegant look.

The set includes a 24-cm fry pan, 16-cm and 20-cm casserole with glass lids that have air vents to regulate steam.

Copper has been hailed as the ultimate culinary metal because it generates heat 24 times better and faster than other metals. It facilitates heat transfer from source to the entire pan base.

Food is cooked more thoroughly and in less time because heat is evenly distributed. Many professional chefs around the world prefer using copper cookware because it is highly efficient for sauteing, reducing and making delicate sauces.

BEKA Gastronom Copper Cookware five-piece gift set

Even Martha Stewart endorses copper cookware in her television show.

Another item from Beka's product lines suitable for the Chinese New Year is the Ceylon Tea Kettle which combines durability, functionality and elegance. Its unique design is reminiscent of ancient Chinese tea ceremonies.

Made of cast iron, the kettle's flat bottom allows for shorter heating time. The cast-iron material keeps water warm for a longer time.

The kettle has a fine-wired tea strainer making it suitable for different kinds of teas—loose, fine, bags. It can withstand all heat sources, including induction.

The Beka Gastronom Copper Cookware and Ceylon Tea Kettle, exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation, are available in all leading department stores nationwide. Call 8909703 local 206.

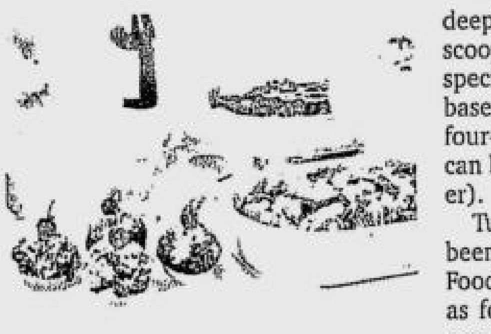
Microwave-safe dinnerware

TUPPERWARE, ONE OF THE world's leading brands of household essentials, presents the Tupperware Microwaveable Legacy Collection, microwave-safe dinnerware for casual and contemporary dining.

All pieces blend easily with other colors and textures, allowing you to have a different table-setting for every new occasion throughout the year.

Now, dishes that need to be reheated can go from the refrigerator to the microwave oven, then the dinner table, reducing the time and energy needed for food preparation and serving.

This set of lifetime-guaranteed table service products feature sure-grip handles, scratch-resistant bases and sophisticated, ceramic-like designs.



TUPPERWARE Legacy Server Collection

The Legacy Collection consists of soup server (deep-base server for soups and casseroles with 1.8-liter capacity; comes with matching easy-to-grip long ladle that will not slide into the bowl even when covered); rice server (has 1.8-liter capacity; food remains hot and handle stays cool; with deeply curved base that lets you scoop out contents easily; comes with specially designed spoon that rests on based slots); large oval server (has four-liter capacity; the versatile cover can be used as a shallow tray or server).

Tupperware plastic products have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as food containers. To join the Tupperware-BeautiControl Business Opportunity, host or attend a "Taste of Tupperware" party, buy or sell Tupperware brand products, call 8885521

Visit www.tupperware.com.ph, e-mail TupperwarePhilippines@tupperware.com; or write to PO Box 1200, Makati Central Post Office 1253, Makati City.

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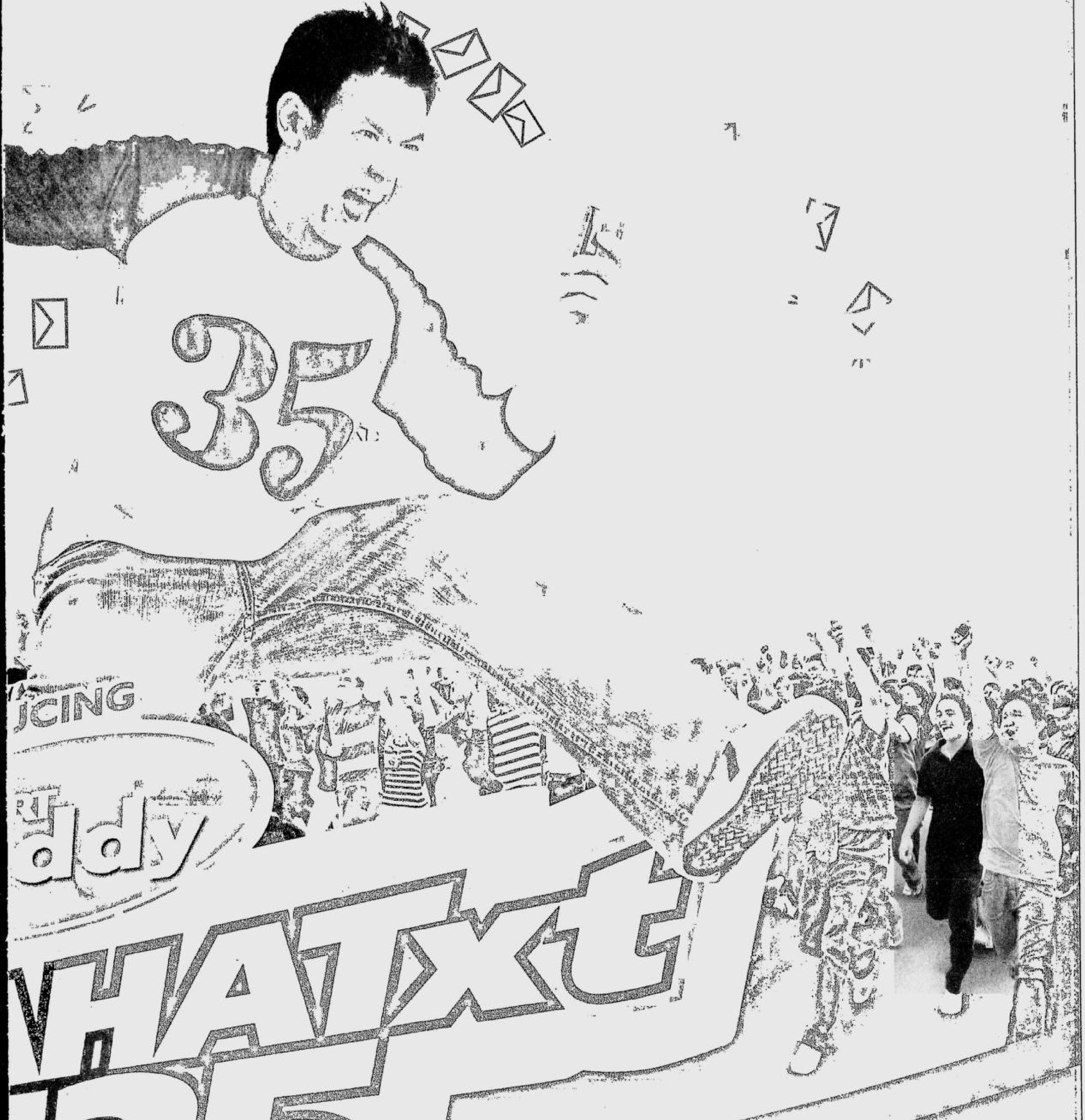

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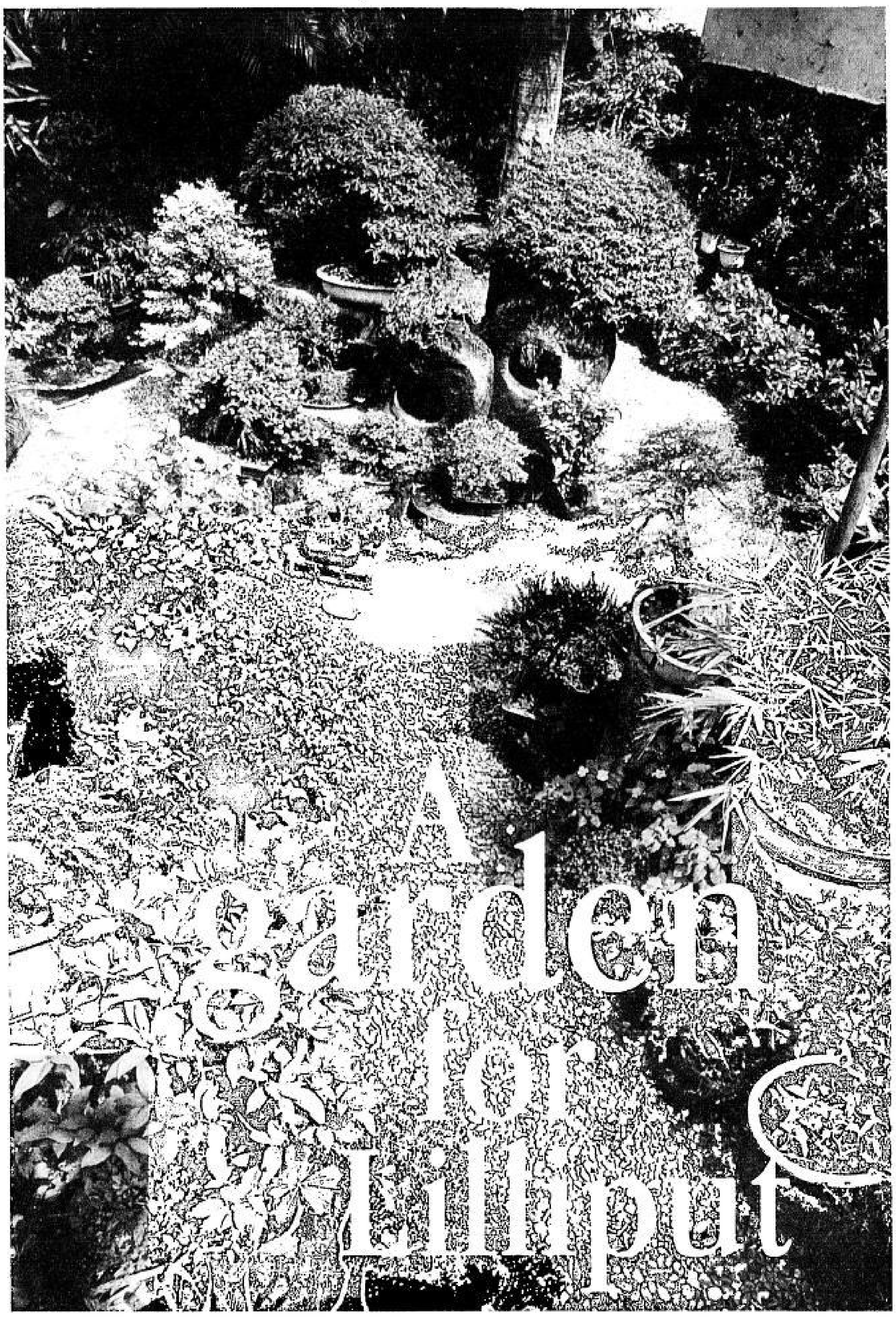
A garden for Lilliput



GUPIT walks around the pebbled garden for more than two hours a day to tend to her plants.

A WATERFALL, a fixture in typical Japanese gardens, complements the bonsai collection.

COLORFUL koi complete the Japanese arrangement in this section of the garden.

A *BANTIGUE* with dramatically fissured bark in trunk and branches LINDA BOLIDO

SOME trees have existed in the wild for decades before bonsai masters found them. LINDA BOLIDO

THE ANCIENT look is a valued bonsai characteristic.

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by August de la Cruz

ONE WOULD THINK BONsai, being small, would be easier to care for than regular plants and trees.

But, from wisdom gained through 30 years of nurturing those tiny things, Felicidad Sanchez-Gupit knows that bonsai can require more in time and effort than plants and trees allowed to grow normally.

With bonsai requiring training, trimming and styling, and proper "nutrition," the propagation of these miniature items almost sounds like the regimen for developing a beauty queen.

The comparison may actually be appropriate in the case of Gupit's plants. Her creations have hogged the spotlight in several exhibitions and competitions, earning for her numerous local and international honors.

Her bonsai collection is on a semi-permanent exhibit at her home in Quezon City where the garden occupies about a third of the 1,000-sq m property.

Orchard

She has a virtual orchard squeezed into that space with such fruiting species as guava, *sampalok*, *balimbing*, *granada*, *chico*, Chinese lemon, crabapple, pink and green *makopa*, and berries—in miniature, of course.

The bonsai collection occupies center stage and is surrounded by Gupit's other favorites—ferns, cacti and other succulents, bromeliads, aquatic plants and caladium, to name a few. The garden also showcases another of Gupit's well-known collections—stones.

Bonsai's beauty does not depend on growth alone; artistry is a key factor

Gupit admits she favors fruiting and floral species as bonsai material. "I love how these fruiting and flowering species present the cycle of the seasons and the wonder of seeing a bud turn into berries and fruits. Flowers blossom and give color to my garden."

The septuagenarian avid gardener says her passion for bonsai was simply an extension of her deep love for plants and nature nurtured in her native Batangas.

Working in Manila, she chanced upon a bonsai exhibit in the early '70s and was fascinated by the little plants and trees. She later joined the Philippine Bonsai Society Inc. as her fascination blossomed into a strong commitment to the Japanese plant art.

She has some 250-300 plants to show for her 30 years of dedication to bonsai, several of them she has nurtured from the time she developed her interest in the art.

Gupit says her oldest species is a *bantigue*, which is more than a century old (when bonsai growers talk about plants being older than them, they are actually referring to the total number of years the species have existed, including time in the wild, before they were found).

Still in training

Gupit says the *bantigue*, despite its venerable age, is still in "training," meaning she is still working to make it assume a distinctive shape, one of the distinguishing characteristics of bonsai, aside from size.

Age and her "shrinking" garden are not slowing down this passionate gardener. "In spite of the already limited space in my garden, I still [collect] plant materials with great bonsai potential," she says.

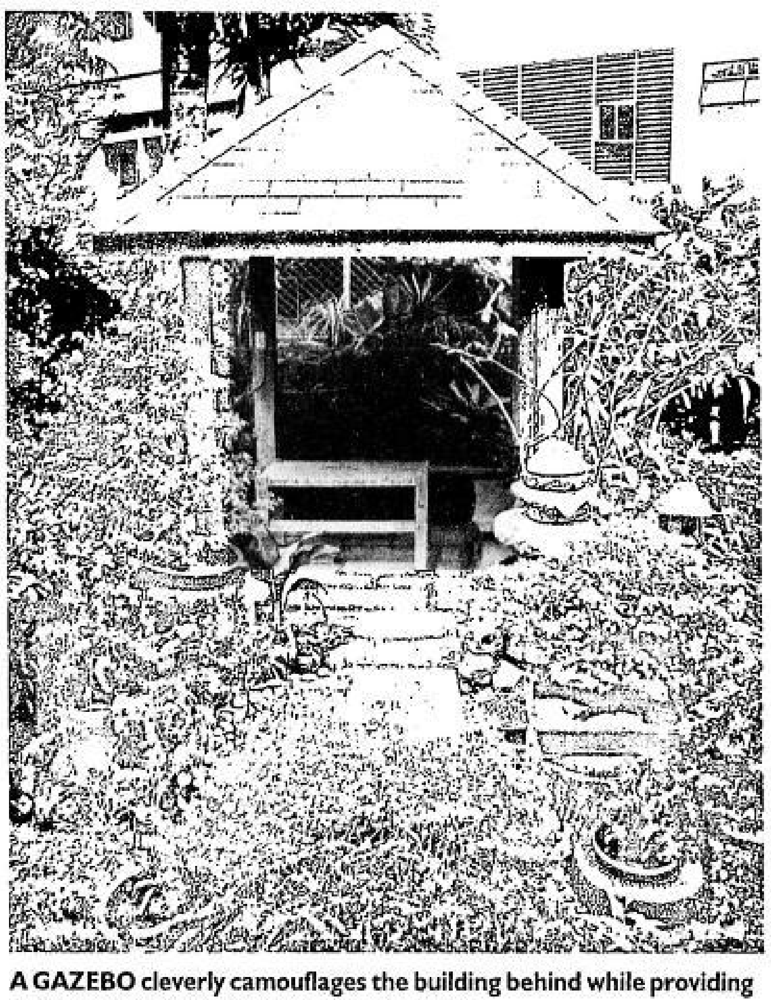
Gupit says bonsai propagation requires, more than anything else, patience. "The beauty of bonsai does not depend on growth alone. The artistry [in its development]is a key factor in elevating it to the highest degree possible."

A bonsai master has to decide on the appropriate design for the plant and proceeds to find the right pot that will present the style to the best advantage.

"Placement, wiring and pruning are followed in the course of its training. I believe there is really no such thing as a finished bonsai. Being a living thing, it continuously evolves based on the artist's capacity to nurture the tree," she says.

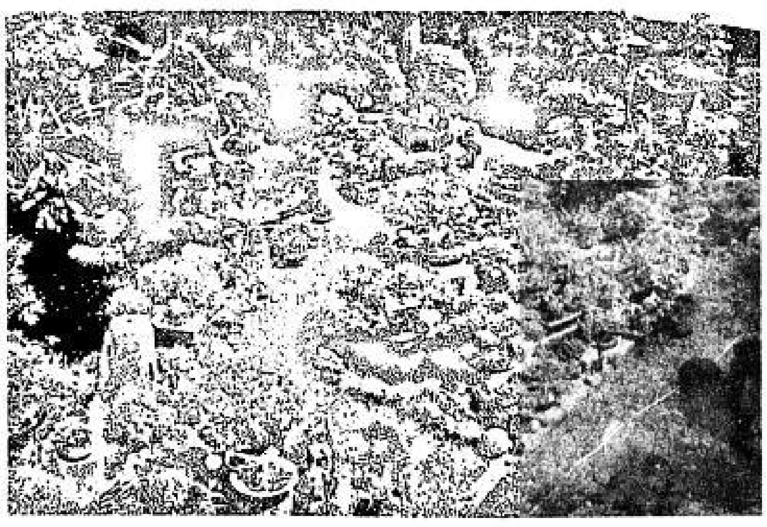
Gupit has repeatedly shown that capacity. In addition to awards from the PBSI and Philippine Horticulture Society Inc., her creations have landed on the Top 100 of the Japan Airlines World Bonsai Contest in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003. In 2004 and 2005 she was in the top 100 of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation's list.

Her collections of bonsai and stones provided enough material for the book "The Bonsai & Suiseki Collection of Felicidad Sanchez-Gupit" that her children produced to mark her 75th birthday a few years back.



A GAZEBO cleverly camouflages the building behind while providing a nice backdrop for a wide variety of plants.

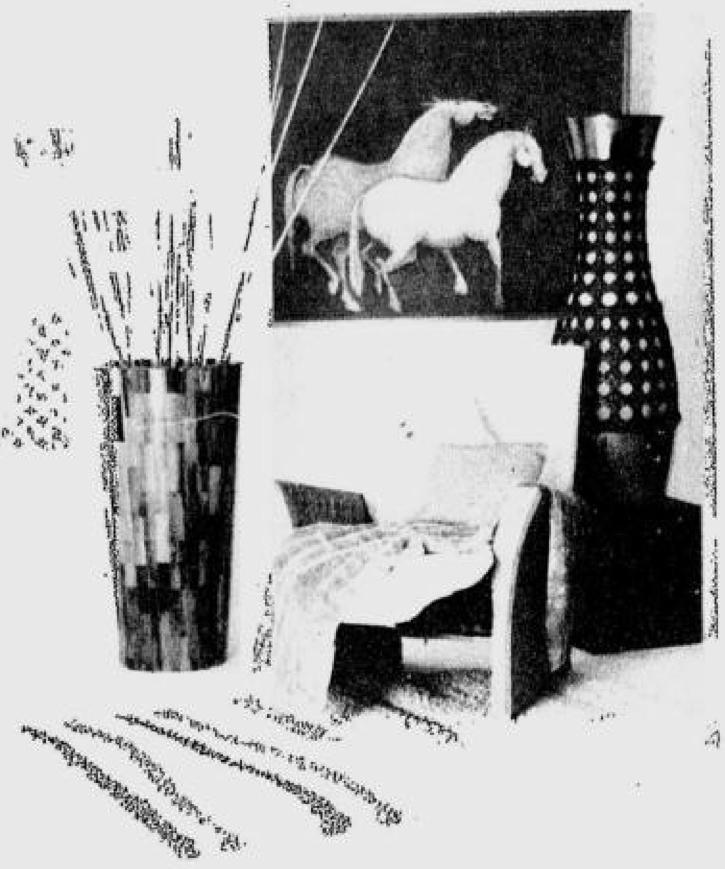
GUPIT holds a six-inch miniature guava, a favorite. LINDA BOLIDO



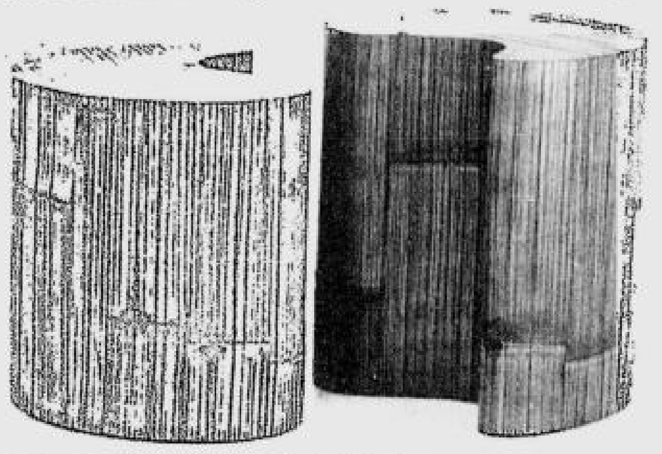
MINIATURE plants are constantly in need of trimming and styling, as well as training, to "maintain" their looks.

BONSAI care, Gupit says, involves a careful balancing of water, fertilizer and other plant needs.

Native and versatile



FURNITURE and furnishings sourced from different LRI design stores



YIN-YANG table available at Imaje Designs.

THE VERSATILITY OF THE ABACA is showcased once again when it is blended with leather to create the Luxor Recliner, a relaxation chair.

The Luxor is among the array of designer furniture available at the one-stop lifestyle center LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel-Air II, Makati City.

LRI is marking its anniversary "Purely SENSEational" Jan. 27-Feb. 10. Already carrying home accessories from over 30 manufacturers, exporters and distributors of furniture and furnishings, LRI will have even more items to offer during the celebration, such as the Luxor Recliner by Jan Krenn and Frank van der Valle.

Available in classic neutral colors and suitable for the living room, den or bedroom, it can be complemented with an abaca round vase by Van der Valle and Ton van Hierden. Both are available at Diretso Design Furniture (tel. 8963277).

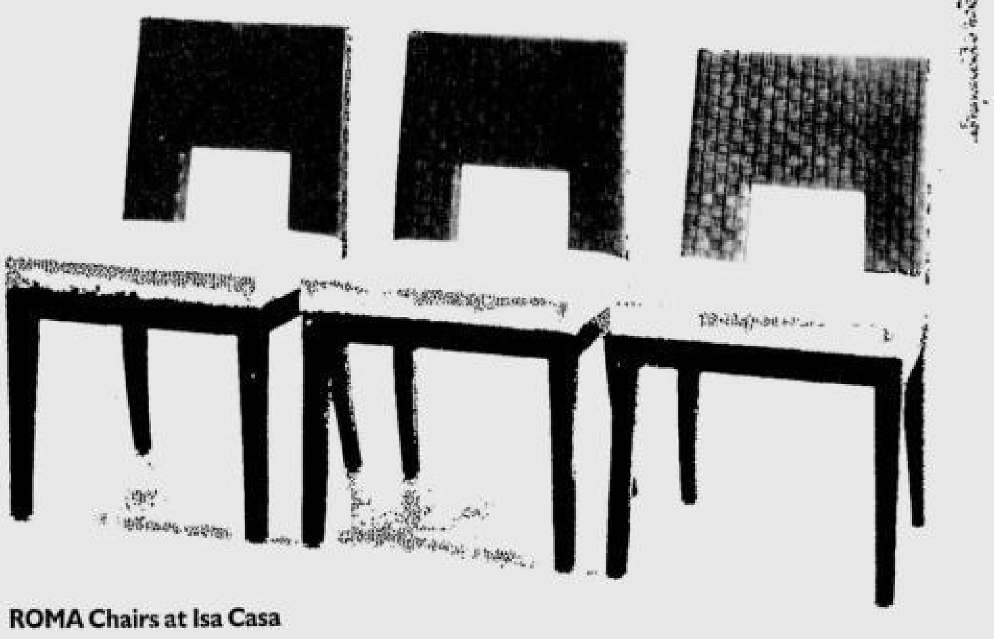
The two-piece multipurpose Yin-Yang table by James Adams, made from crushed bamboo, symbolizes heaven and earth, the feminine and masculine, and the constant struggle to keep things in balance.

It is available at Imaje Designs Inc. (tel. 8978645).

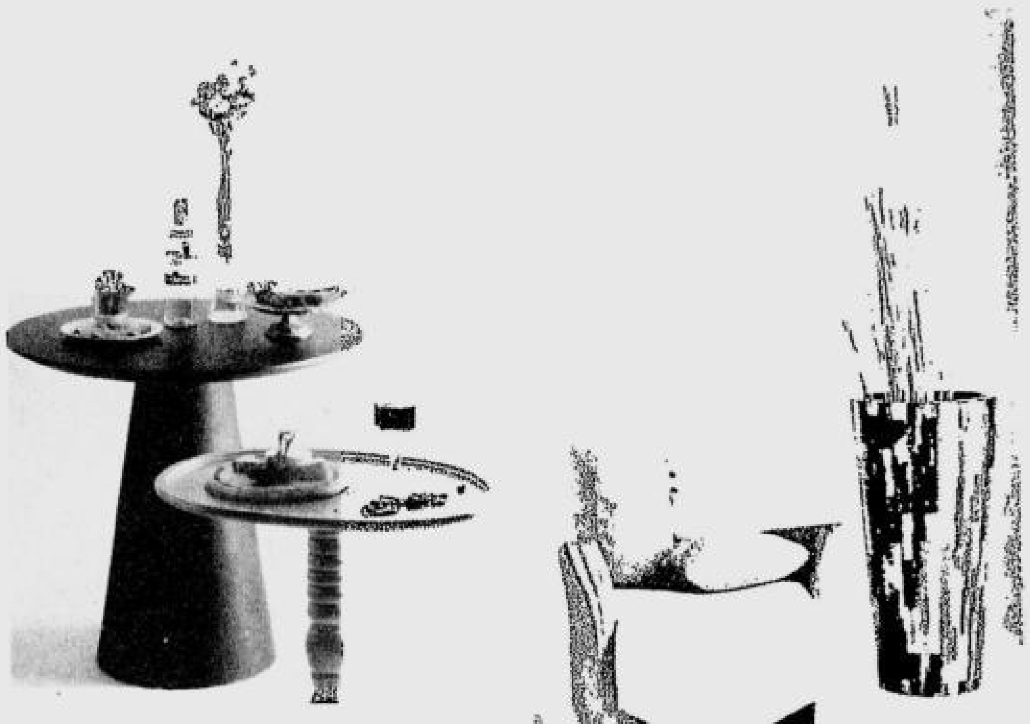
Roma Chair by Paolo Castillo features flat-oval weave, microfiber fabric and wood. With its clear, straight lines, it will fit in the dining room, living room or bedroom. The chair is available at Isa Casa Designer Furniture (tel. 8959187).

Audrey Vanity Desk and chair by Luzon Rattan Industries Inc. (tel. 8901188 or 8965171) is a unique blend of mahogany and rattan woven matting. It is suitable as study table or dresser.

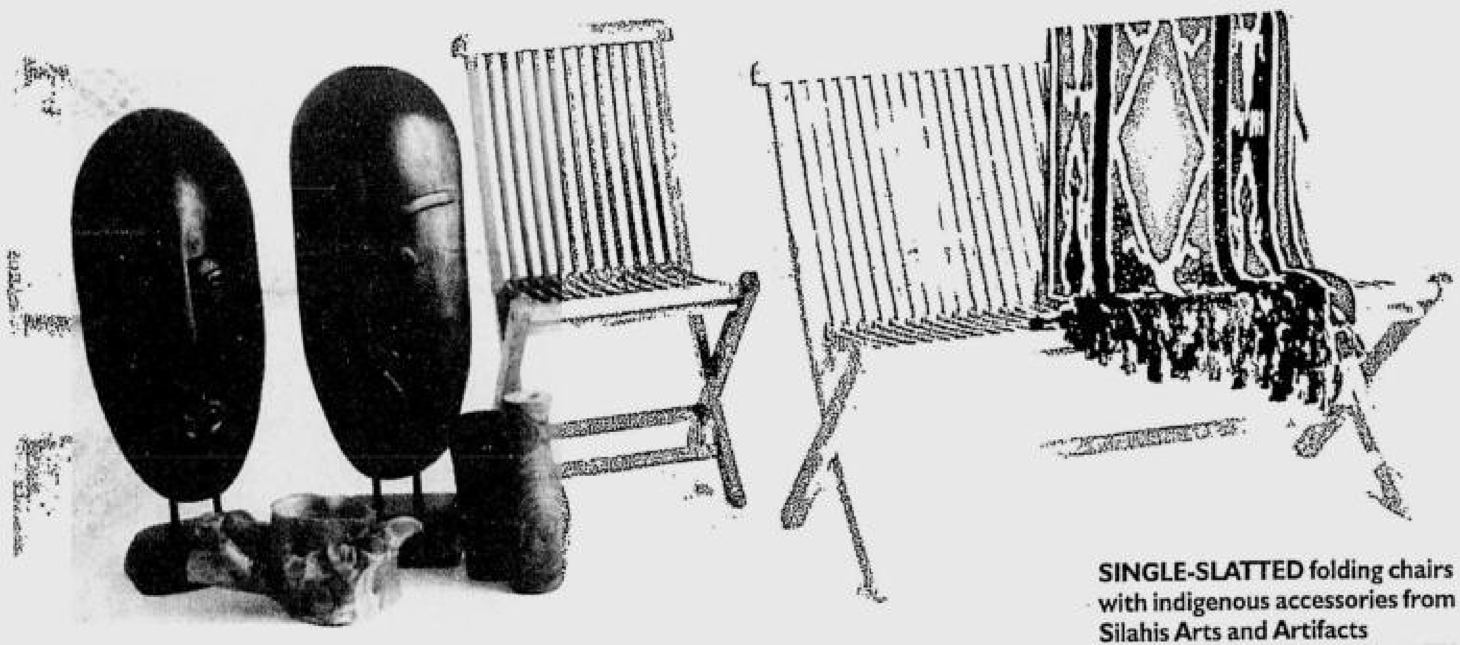
Single-slatted Folding Chairs by Silahis Arts and Artifacts (tel. 8982125) may look fragile, but they are actually made from sturdy molave and *kamagong* wood. The woven blanket draped on the chair and the Sikaping vase represent indigenous art from the Ifugao province in Northern Luzon. Added drama can come from Masks made of acacia and Root bowl crafted from Almus tree.



ROMA Chairs at Isa Casa



NIGHT and coffee tables from The Room Upstairs; Luxor Recliner and Abaca Round Vase (right photo) at Diretso



SINGLE-SLATTED folding chairs with indigenous accessories from Silahis Arts and Artifacts

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAVASERO

AUDREY Vanity Table from Luzon Rattan Inc.

Filipino culture keeps her from ending a bad marriage

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I am a nurse here in the US and I've been a battered wife for 23 years.

My husband has a terrible temper, very possessive and paranoid. I have endured for my kids' sake. They, too, still feel a bitterness toward him even now that they've grown up.

He never said sorry. As a battered wife, I always ended up making the move to patch things up even though he was wrong. I believed and hoped things would get better.

I went through a vicious cycle. When I arrived here, I even included him in my petition to bring my family here. He is in another state now.

Then, I met this guy who is older than me by a year, a Christian, divorced, and retired navy man. Never did I think I'd get into another relationship.

He is very serious, urging me to go ahead with the divorce I filed some months ago. I tried to end our relationship but he cried saying he couldn't let me go.

Every time I need him he's there though we live miles apart. He makes plans for us, bonds with my kids, and his family communicates with me through e-mail.

What holds me back is the Filipino culture I grew up in that expects you to stay in a marriage no matter how bad it is. I'm also thinking about what his family and other people will say...

I support my son in university here and we don't get a penny from his father. My friend told me I might go through with the motions of getting a divorce but he knew I would not sign it.

'I'm also thinking about what his (husband's) family and other people will say'

Should I stay in this unhappy, violent relationship or follow my emotions?

NURSE IN AMERICA

I am a Filipino, too, but is there such a decree in this culture to bear a bad marriage until death? I know "till death do us part" is still recited in marriage vows—but in your case, you're not even living with your husband anymore!

So what marriage are you referring to? And these friends whose words matter so much to you, have they set up a financial fund that will disappear when you hook up with this friend? Is your life regulated or decided by them?

You've been a battered wife for 23 years... your children have grown up bitter... you gave this ideal and delightful husband of yours a chance for a new life in America but he is not with you anyway...

Yet, despite all these "goodies," you're still at it, digging a deeper hole for yourself by worrying about this phantom "culture" and what your friends and family will say?

You're a grown woman with a mind of your own, right? Don't you wish for happiness or peace of mind at all? Is this "death sentence" you've imposed on yourself what you really want or is it all for show? Do you think suffering will make you a saint?

There are different strokes for different folks and happiness comes in various colors and persuasions. It seems that happiness to you means obedience, conformity and looking nice to other people.

You and I know you hate your life now—hate it, hate it, hate it. You want to bolt out of this supposed "culture" you have imprisoned your mind in and is oppressing you—otherwise you won't be writing this letter.

In a little while you'll be an old woman. Don't you want to be with someone who truly cares for you and will be by your side in the twilight of your life? Don't you want to heal and, if possible, erase all the hurts, the battering of these past 23 years and transform your life into one that is loving and caring before it is too late?

You are the captain of your fate—not your culture, not your friends. You either live it in peace or live it in suffering. Don't be a wimp by allowing others to dictate how you live your life. This is not a dress rehearsal. This is it, kid!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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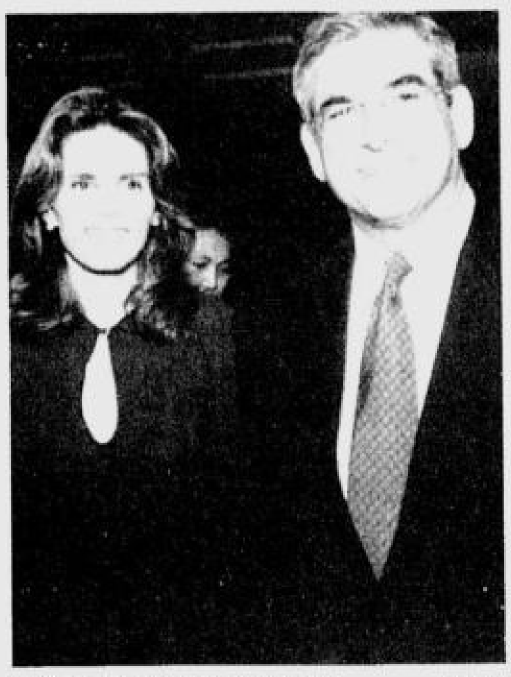

LIZZIE Zobel and Jaime Zobel

RYAN LIM

RICHARD Gomez, Jun de Leon, Lucy Torres-Gomez and Diether Ocampo

RYAN LIM

When giving is good business

Bench's 'Wear Your Conscience' campaign shows philanthropy is infectious

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

ARE BILLBOARDS TRULY EFFECTIVE? Well, from the unbelievable number of texts I've received this past week, I would say a resounding, "Yes!" Thanks to the latest Bench campaign, **Dennis, Athena** and I are on a giant billboard on Edsa.

I remember four years ago, HSBC featured me in a hilarious, traffic-stopping, pink-coifed billboard ad. Now Bench makes me feel like I've joined the likes of the multi-billboard, single-named royalty like **Sharon, Lucy** and, of course, Kris.

Fortunately for the driving public, the billboard is not the signature, strikingly provocative image in most Bench ads. The only one showing off her underwear, in fact, is my little year-old Athena.

The billboard promotes Bench's campaign, "Wear Your Conscience." The evolution of a barbed question to philanthropic apparel to a

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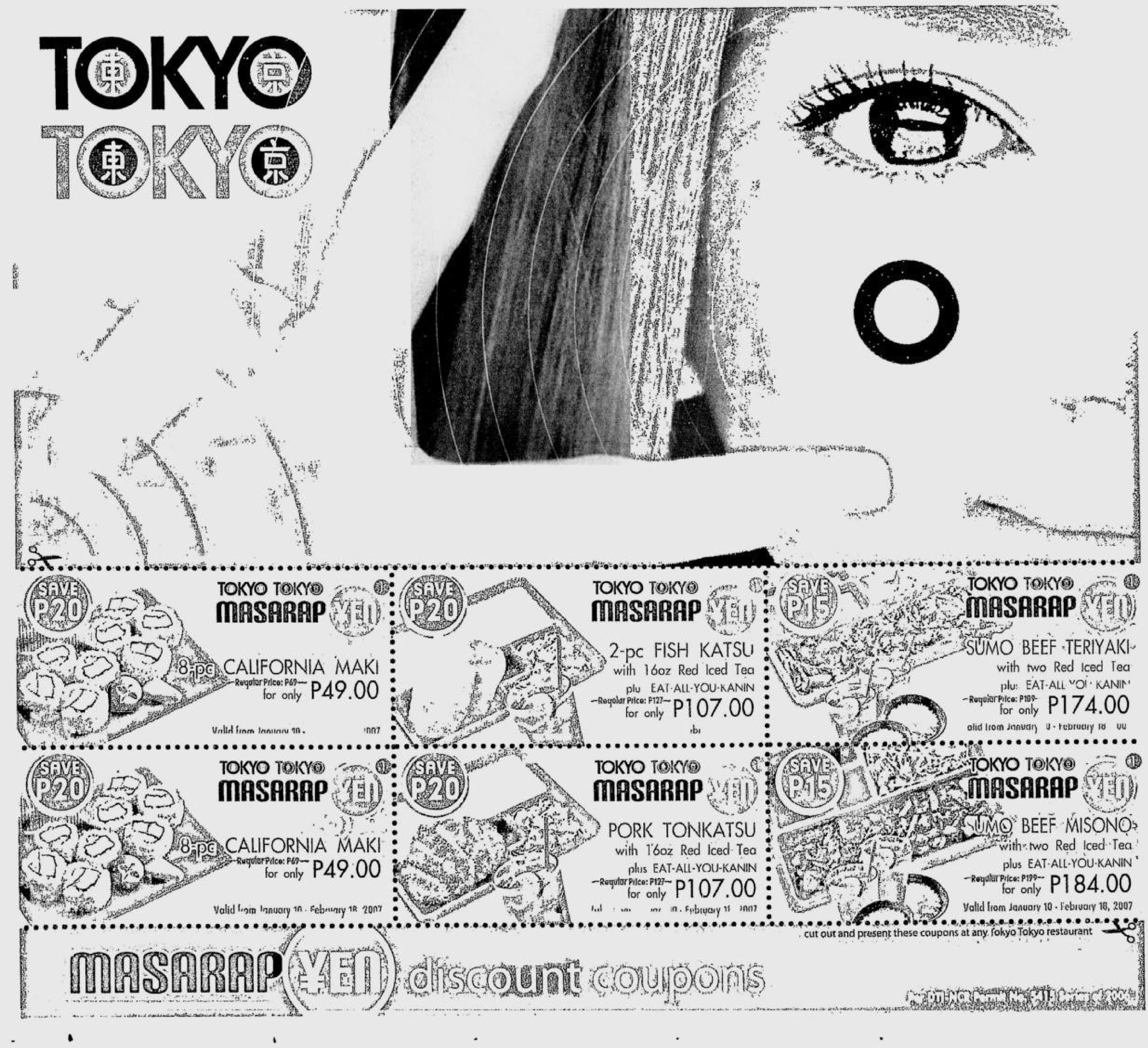

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SUMO BEEF TERIYAKI
with two Red Iced Tea
plus EAT-ALL-YOU-KANIN
Regular Price: P189
for only P174.00
Valid from January 10 - February 18, 2007

SAVE P20
TOKYO TOKYO MASARAP YEN
8-pc CALIFORNIA MAKI
Regular Price: P69
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SAVE P20
TOKYO TOKYO MASARAP YEN
PORK TONKATSU
with 16oz Red Iced Tea
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SAVE P15
TOKYO TOKYO MASARAP YEN
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plus EAT-ALL-YOU-KANIN
Regular Price: P199
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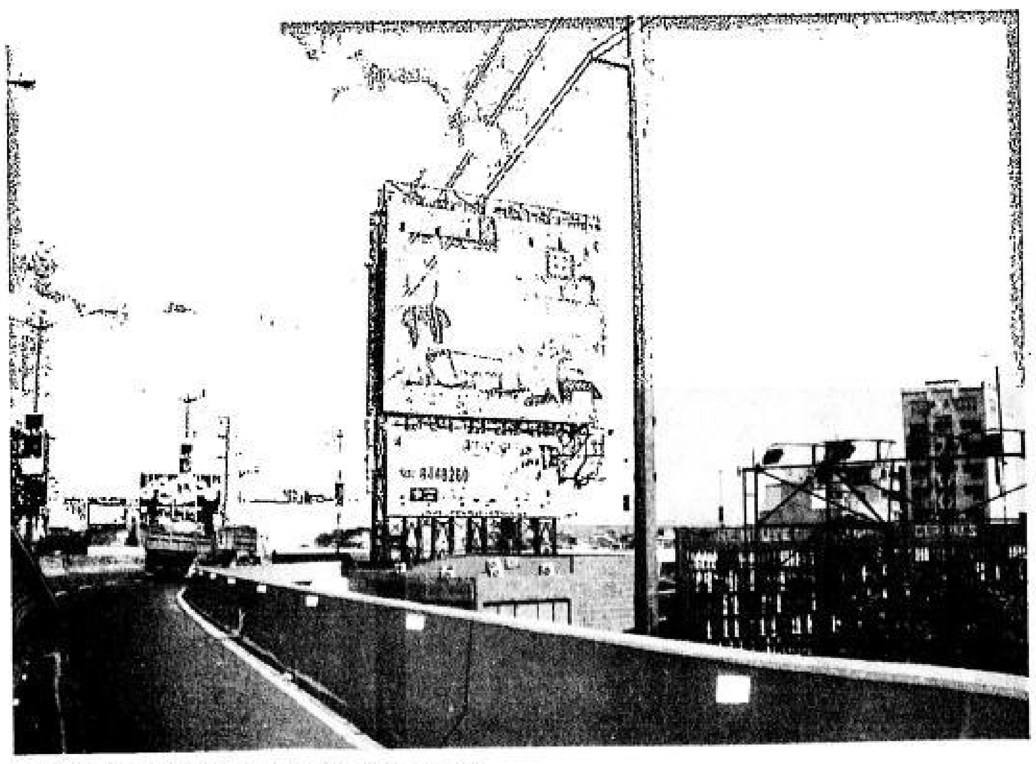
MASARAP YEN discount coupons

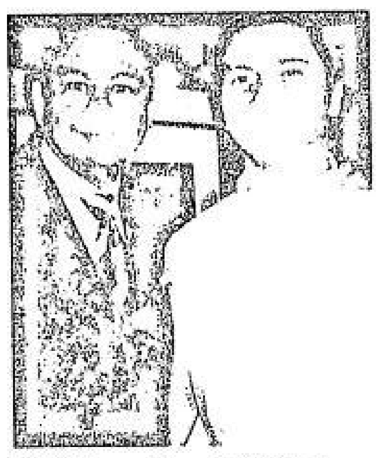


BENCH "Wear Your Conscience" billboard

***FENG** shui* friends Rosan Cruz, Chris Yeo, Jennifer Too-Yeo, Sea Princess, Wash SyCip, Lillian Too and Wan Jin Too

When giving is good business

BENCH Body beauties Shaina Magdayao and Diether Ocampo



MEDIA men Monchet Olives and Ipe Cruz

STAGE actress Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and son Luis

PHILWEB'S Dennis Valdes and SSI's Anton Huang

GEM Padilla

PEPPER Teehankee

RYAN LIM

From page E1

massive awareness campaign is quite a story. Photography guru **Jun de Leon** first brought forth the paradoxical question of how conscience and luxury might coexist to Bench founder **Ben Chan.**

The answer, of course, is through charity. Ever-forward-thinking Ben, together with ABS Publishing duo **Raul Manzano** and **Philip Cu-unjieng**, provided proof of concept via a charity campaign—a coffee-table photo book and a special Bench "Wear Your Conscience" clothing line.

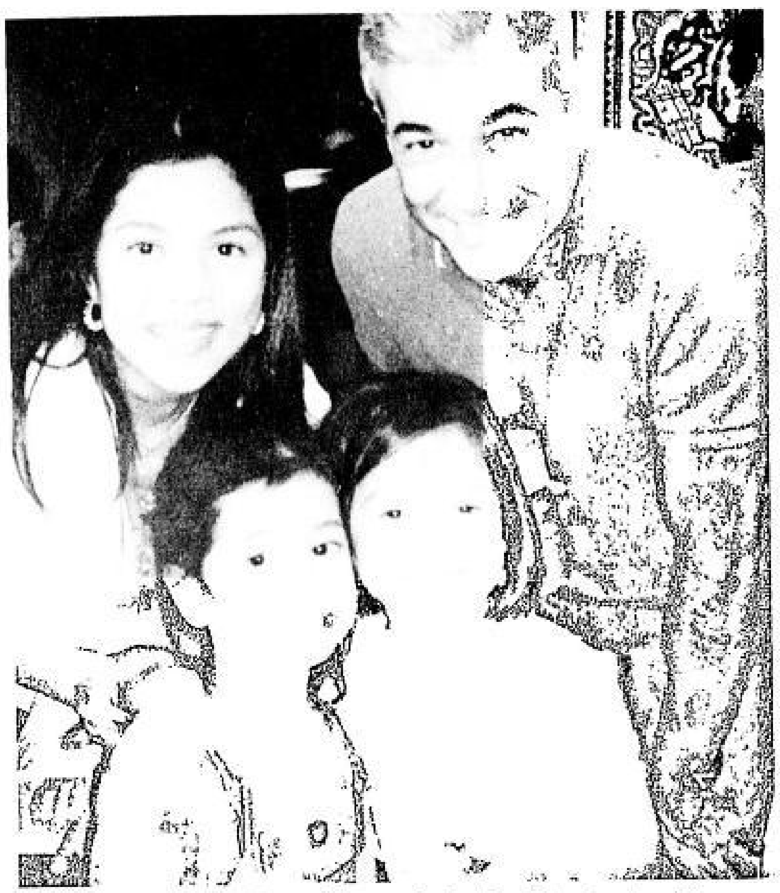
Our session with photomaster Jun was sheer delight. His genius behind the lens shows in his ability to coax "the shot" quickly, even when working with a baby and a dog. The final shot was done in minutes, with Athena's winsome smile and my cousin **Jon-jon** Rufino's whippet, Calypso, regally enjoying the sun.

The successful book launch at the Ayala Museum was graced by the country's top business and entertainment personalities, who all believe in Bench's worthy advocacy. The coffee-table book benefits the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, a nonprofit organization promoting love of reading among Filipino children.

If Ayala Museum had allowed dogs inside, I would have brought Calypso, but instead, I just brought the scene-stealer herself, Athena. She loved the dance floor and the paparazzi but what I hope she truly learns to love is charity itself.

Before leaving, Ben autographed my copy and wrote, "Promise, next in Bench Body!" Hmm. How far dare I go for charity? With the coming Year of the Boar, we all need to double up on socially relevant activities to counter any inauspicious flow of energy. But Bench Body? I shall leave that to **Assunta**!

The new Bench Campaign has alerted us to be more mindful of those that need assistance and to share whatever bountiful blessings we have. Big-hearted Ben is not only a retail marketing genius but also a positive mover in the charity world. He will surely have continuous good karma whatever animal year it is.



"PETER Pan" guests Kit and Fernando Zobel with cute daughter Katya and Rocio Tambunting

Geomancy and luck

Good *feng shui* can effectively enhance one's luck. As the Year of the Fire Boar approaches, it won't hurt to create an auspicious setting for good energy to flow inward. Where best to get a multitude of *feng shui* info than to attend the 2nd Philippines Feng Shui Extravaganza?

Called "Getting Rich & Staying Safe," the event starts this coming Saturday, Jan. 27, at Premier Cinema, SM Mall of Asia. World-renowned *feng shui* author and master **Lillian Too** will share her forecast for the Year of the Fire Boar covering each of the different animal signs. World of Feng Shui Philippines' **Marites Allen** will also be featured.

The show shall have a repeat the next day, Jan. 28, at the Fiesta Pavilion of Manila Hotel. For inquiries, please call 9147888 or 9147112, or text 0920-9509390. The *feng shui* fair is co-sponsored by PDI and HSBC.

From the time I attended the successful extravaganza last year, I have been hooked on *feng shui* and fascinated with the relationships of the different animal signs. Lillian has a marvelous gift for talking about *feng shui* in an animated but informative way. It is not a magical way to better fortune, but just like prayers and hard work, it pays off in the end.

Magical 'Peter Pan'

Speaking of magic, the only real way to fly is to kick off with your heels and think of happy thoughts together with a bit of magical fairy dust from Tinker Bell! The fabulous musical "Peter Pan" is now being shown at the CCP on weekends until Feb. 4. For Globe subscribers, text PETERPAN to 2345 for info.

As the presenting partner of "Peter Pan," Watson's is delighted that Children's Hour is the adopted children's charity for the Manila leg of the Pan-Asia Tour. Children's Hour is a fundraising and grant-giving organization that raises resources for children's programs nationwide.

Cast members are taking the lead and will do workshops for Children's Hour projects and are donating an hour of their salary for this worthy program. So aside from watching this highly commended, entertaining, magical production, we should all know that a lot of underprivileged children are also being helped.

The flying stunts are amazing and the musical numbers by the Peter Pan Choir, composed mostly of the University of Santo Tomas Singers, are delightful. We should be all proud that ABA Productions Hong Kong has tapped Filipino composers, choreographers, artists and singers to be an integral part of the show.

Assumption musical

Another musicale featuring talented children is "Hundred Milyon Miracles," by the Marie Eugenie Theater of the Assumption (Metta). This original play was written by a team of writers from the Assumption community, **Ana Valdes-Lim** (also its director) and **Rickie Camara**. The musicale features music and lyrics by **Pinky Valdes**.

The cast and crew feature 120 volunteers from Assumption College. Catch performances on Feb. 9 and 16, 7 p.m., at the Mother Rose Auditorium in Assumption College. Call 8942681 or 8170757, local 1161, for tickets and info.

Writing about all these charity campaigns supporting education has made me have a truly feel-good Sunday. Now that is what is truly effective!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

ASSUMPTION Batch '81 Karina Galang and kids Hunter and Avery Klück, Pia Lorenzo, and Janine and Kiara Dario

BENCH future model Athena Valdes on Conscience chair

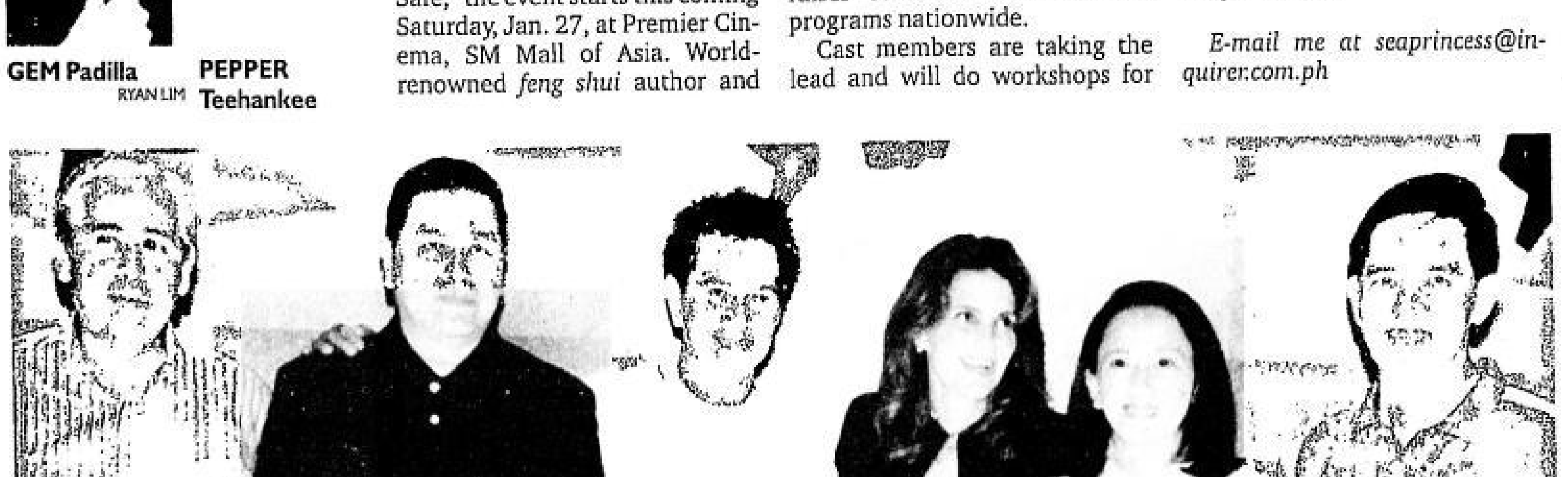
"PETER Pan's" Fairy Queen Erin Brodie

FAMILY friends Chu-chu Madrigal and Mandy Eduque and daughter Alexandra

GORGEOUS Susan Reyes and Virgilio Lim

ACTOR John Lapuz and Rhoda Aldanese

PHOTOGRAPHER Jun de Leon with wife Abbygale

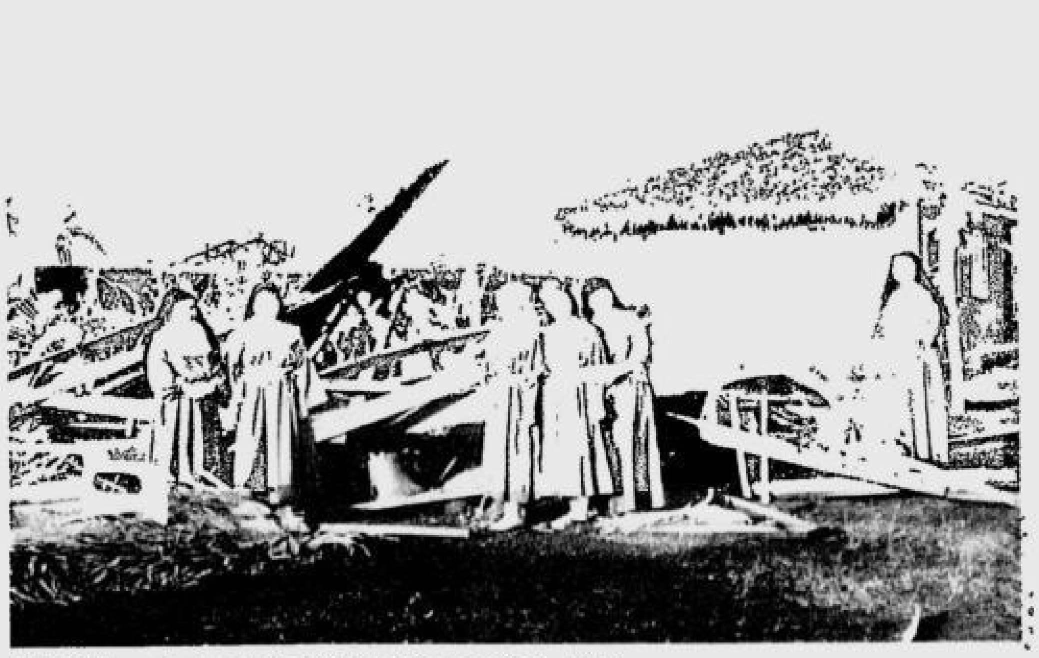


THE PEOPLE behind the book: Raul Manzano, Ben Chan, Jun de Leon, Lizzie Zobel, Margarita Delgado and Philip Cu-unjieng

RYAN LIM

GREAT friends Keren Pascual, Mons Tantoco, Ben Chan and Miguel Pastor

COUPLE Rosita and Carmelo Cortez with bishops and priests during their renewal of vows at the Manila Cathedral for their 14th wedding anniversary



POOR Clares in devastated Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Filipino visionary marks 14th wedding anniversary

FILIPINO VISIONARY AND HEALER Carmelo Cortez and wife Rosita marked their 14th wedding anniversary, Dec. 12, feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at the Manila Cathedral with five bishops and at least 33 priests attending.

The presence of so many clergymen is extraordinary. Carmelo and Rosita considered it indicative of God's grace.

With their six children—Margarita, Purity, Clarisse, Carmela, Divino and Carlo—the couple renewed their marriage vows before Bishop Nereo Ochimar who officiated the concelebrated Mass with Bishop Ruben Profugo, Bishop Emeritus Cirilo Almario and Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez. Archbishop José Oliveros came later.

Lawyer Eden and Miguel Villanueva marched with their daughter Rosita. Carmelo's father, Angel Cortez, and Bishop Almario waited with him for the bride.

Rosita wore a gown by Babes Divantes. The wedding anniversary must have looked like a first wedding. Carmelo and Rosita's first wedding 14 years ago was not as grand.

Carmelo is no ordinary visionary and healer. He has been God's instrument in transforming rose petals into religious icons for many years now.

When he does healing in the Chapel of Our Mother of the Eucharist and Grace in barrio San Vicente, Santa Maria, Bulacan, the oil-soaked rose petal he presses on the chest of a sick person gets marked with a religious scene like the Annunciation, Sacred Heart, Padre Pio, St. Therese of the Child Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The chapel, which has been declared an archdiocesan shrine, has healing Masses at 12 noon every first Saturday. As of this writing, Carmelo is in South Carolina bringing a replica of the Sto. Niño de Tondo for the Filipino community's celebration of Sto. Niño's fiesta.

Poor Clares

Sister Marieta Vega, OSC, of the Monastery of Poor Clares in Barrio Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay, said typhoon Reming truly devastated the town including their convent. The order was received only two years ago in the diocese of Legazpi but had already suffered from the effects of Bicol's unpredictable weather.

The beautiful chapel, just 6 months old and built from contributions, was in ruins in a matter of hours when "Reming" struck.

In her e-mail, Sister Marietta said: "It was a night every soul in Albay would never forget, including the nuns who found themselves among the crowd that evacuated to a safer place. It was an 'exodus'... but we simply had to cross the borders of fear and devastation toward hope and safety. Along the way, we heard groaning and crying as silhouettes of lifeless or dying bodies added an eerie feeling to our already cold and trembling flesh."

To help, please e-mail poorclaresphil@hotmail.com.

Devotees

The following have been *hermanos* of the Sto. Niño fiesta at the PNB Financial Center: Louie and Mellie Ablaza, Roberto and Marisse Baes, Mercy Balocating, Marivic-Ayala Camacho, doctors Erwin and Arlene Carabeo, Reynaldo and Evelyn de Castro, Huan Yan and Norma Chan, Sam and Chita Chen, Imelda Cojuangco, Fe and Ed de Guia, Vicky Garcia, Adrian Gonzales, Fabella and Bernardina Lucena vda. de Gonzales, Lydia Gregorio, William and Mila Haw, Nene Aguinaldo and Grace José, Renato and Vicky Magadia, Milagros Mangaliman, Dr. José Mendez, Arturo and Evangeline Orosco, Marietta Paredes, Richard Quiocho, Dr. Roberto and Cynthia Ramirez, Vivian M. Raneses, Johnny and Carol Rogge, Ernesto and Chi-Chi Salas, Marcosa Sanchez, Paulino and Nelly Tan, Jorge Allan Tengco, Ofelia Trinidad, Jess and Evelyn Macabagdal and David and Cora Yu. Ma. Kristin Nathalie C. Nell is *hermanita*.

The Sto. Nino de Buena Obra will be brought from Cavite City for the 3 p.m. procession, on Jan. 28, from the Philtrade to the Quirino Grandstand. The image will be accompanied by visionary and healer Nila Almoradie, who has been healing for the past 30 years by going into a trance as the "Sto. Nino." Text 0918-6282062.

Meditation booklet

"Upper Room" was the place where the apostles and the Mother of Jesus received the Holy Spirit who came down as "tongues of fire." It is also the name of a booklet of daily meditations published by New Day Publishers.

Each meditation is preceded by a Bible passage which is expounded by contributors who relate their experiences.

You can subscribe to "Upper Room" by writing to PO Box 1167, Quezon City, 1100; or call 9285046 and 9275982

Fiesta

The town of Angat, Bulacan, will celebrate its town fiesta, Jan. 25, feast of the conversion of St. Paul the apostle.

The church named after the saint has for its parish priest Fr. Reynaldo Rivera. The 66-year-old church is the hometown parish of FF Cruz and his wife Angelita who helped restore the church.

Goodbye

An active member of the St. Joseph Church in Laoag City, Nonong Ablan, passed away Dec. 26, from heart attack. He was the husband of a friend, Tessie Tiong Ablan, a member of the Friends of Carmel.

Tessie is devastated and so are we who always admired Nonong's dedication as a member of Kannawidan Foundation and as a devotee of St. Joseph.

Laoag Councilor Ruben Blanco also died after a long bout with cancer. He was the older brother of Homer Blanco of Prudential Life Insurance. May I ask readers to pray for the repose of their souls?

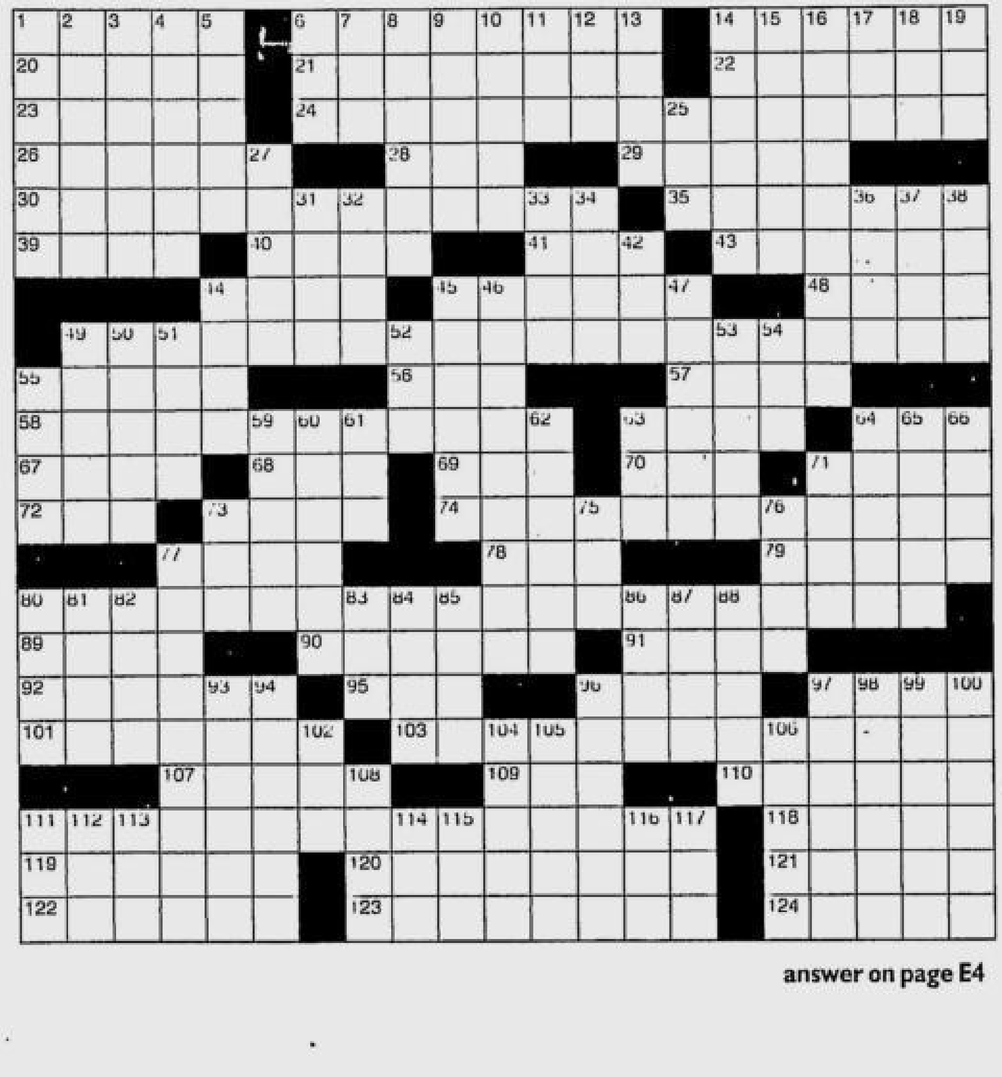
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

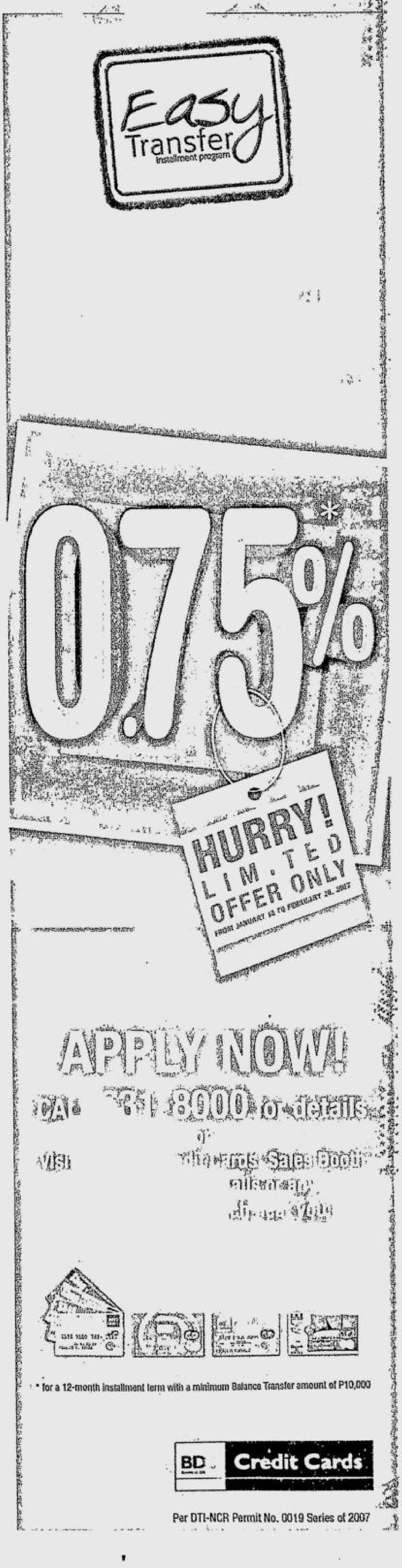
FAB FOUR FUN

ACROSS
1 Conga's kin
6 Match role with actor
14 Masses of floating brine
20 Arbor sights
21 Ready to be rented
22 Instinctive
23 Throws a fit
24 Statement when they don't sell the hand wear you need?
26 Nile birds
28 Singer Shannon
29 Related to punishment
30 Comment from a Broadway fan?
35 Cookbook collection
39 "Electric" swimmers
40 Ages on end
41 Peter out
43 Relate again
44 Animated bug film of 1998
45 NFL QB Steve
48 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)
49 Request for someone who has a cute, lovable beagle?
55 Elite guests
56 Land north of Mex.
57 Bright light
58 Search warrant?
63 Regarding
64 Goal
67 Acorn droppers
68 Flushed
69 "May — excused?"
70 Sch. group
71 Long river in Spain
72 "ER" extras
73 Inverted six
74 Do some grooming side by side?
77 Painter Dix
78 Shad eggs
79 Old hag
80 Remark after spotting trumpeter Alpert doing some carpentry?
89 Steering strap
90 Evening gala
91 Spreadable substitute
92 Former Opel model
95 Curved line
96 Flabbergast
97 Sign holder
101 Cortisone or estrogen
103 Fact about a woman hooked on cosmetic surgery?
107 Actress Braga
109 Unruly crowd
110 Lent follower
111 What a really desirable single person's social life consists of?
118 Memphis street of blues
119 Capable of movement
120 1985 Bruce Springsteen hit
121 Trumpet kin
122 One taking potshots
123 Gurus' opinions
124 Localities

DOWN
1 Zebra mark
2 Suitable for farming
3 Servile
4 "— Wedding" (Alan Alda film)
5 Pack animals
6 Mom's forte, for short
7 Passing vote
8 Bamboo munchers
9 Senator Kefauver
10 HBO's milieu
11 — Dhabi
12 Cunning
13 Office sub
14 Endorser
15 Intertwine
16 Annulment of slavery
17 Journalist Kupcinet
18 Third letter
19 Staff of "Life": Abbr.
25 Suffix with profit
27 Dead tired
31 Politico Trent
32 Automaker Ferrari
33 Patch up
34 Online bidding site
36 Cuzco site
37 Zest
38 Luge or toboggan
42 Prefix with feedback
44 Poker stake
45 Bit of tile art
46 Designer Liz
47 Makes a dash for
49 Homer work
50 Candle ends
51 Seeks data
52 "Ben- —"
53 Label again
54 — -ha
55 Mighty mite
59 Hackneyed
60 Choir members
61 Pindar work
62 No longer in fashion
63 Appropriate
64 Detest
65 Actress Ryan
66 "Don't stop!"
71 To be, in Paree
73 Utmost degree
75 "— Mir Bist Du Schon" (Andrews Sisters hit)
76 Cave sound
77 Possession
80 Tees off
81 Pants part
82 Man Friday
83 Big snake
84 Misters
85 Lead-in for enemy
86 Torture for a couch potato?
87 Stickum
88 On edge
93 Play a flute
94 Fire starter
96 "Amen"
97 Phony sort
98 Power failure
99 Actress Stevens
100 "... — a crowd"
102 Diego's day
104 "Read — weep!"
105 Not too sharp, as a sound recording
106 "— dabba doo!"
108 "Take — from me"
111 Letters after els
112 Particle with a charge
113 Volkswagen hatchback
114 Aussie bird
115 Dad's lad
116 Flub
117 Piano part



answer on page E4



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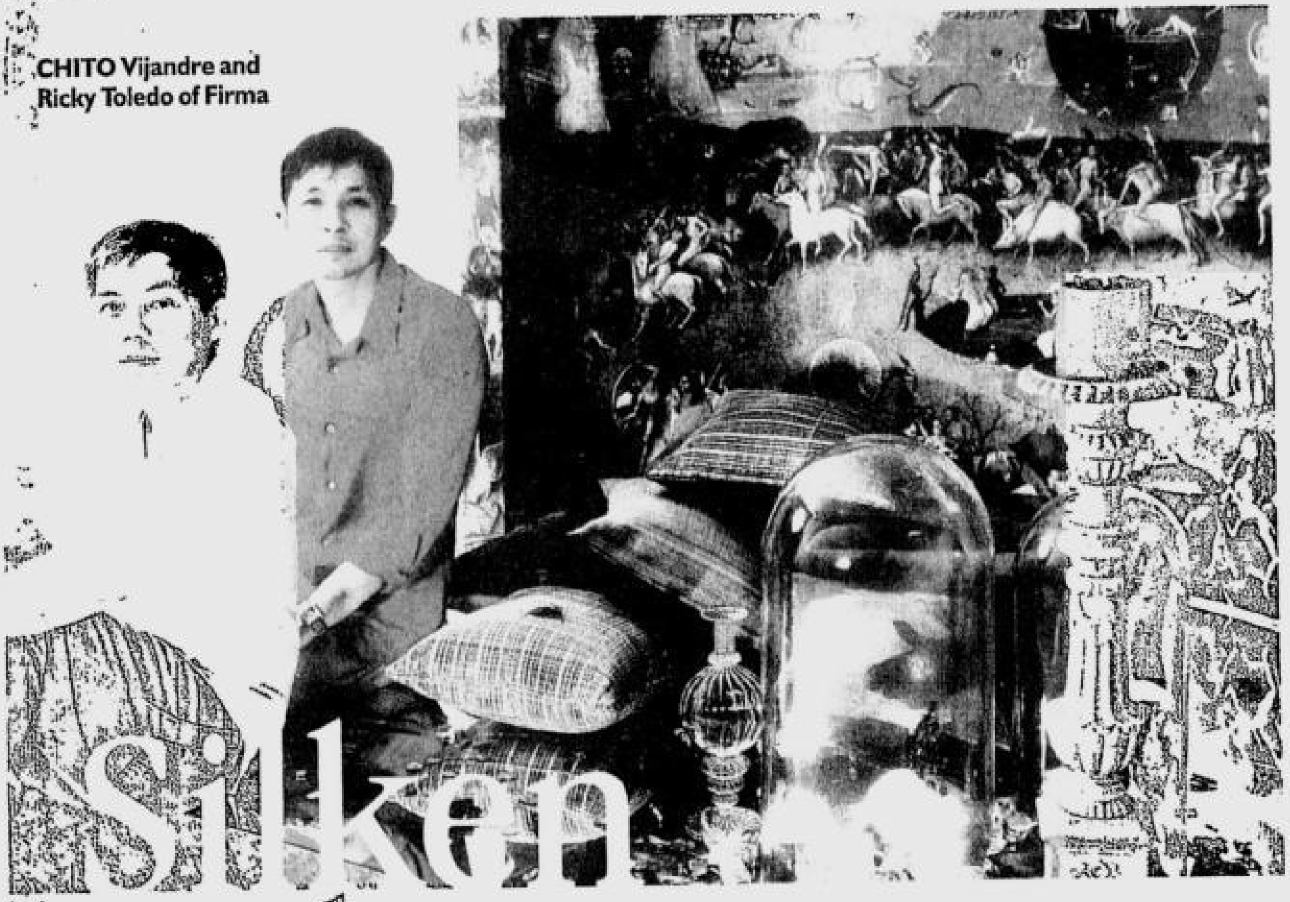
CHITO Vijandre and Ricky Toledo of Firma



MIGUEL Rosales

Silken showcase

JEAN GOULBOURN'S SILK Cocoon has brought international attention to the capability of the Philippines to produce beautiful silk for interiors and fashion since 1994.

The textiles for interiors are now available locally through the Silk Cocoon Lifestyle Showroom, which will open this month at the LRI Business Plaza on Nicanor Garcia Street.

Silk Cocoon's handwoven fabrics put a modern twist to traditional hand-loom methods. Based in silk, they often incorporate natural fibers like abaca (a type of hemp), *piña* (pineapple fibre) and metallic thread, creating a unique and distinct look.

Goulbourn has invited renowned artists to create vignettes based on children's stories by applying Silk Cocoon's fabrics in different ways. The artists are Impy Pilapil, Tessa Prieto Valdes, Miguel Rosales, and Firma's Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo.

Goulbourn asked each artist or designer to "play around" with the fabrics and make a design based on their favorite children's stories.

"We will always carry with us our inner child—even as we live in an adult world—it gives us hope and keeps us dreaming," Goulbourn explained. The result is a range of looks that are vibrant, glamorous, chic and elegant.

Pilapil's whimsical lamp of lively silken strips is inspired by Dr. Seuss' environmental story, "The Lorax."

The witch queen from "Snow White" conjured dark images for Vijandre and Toledo, so they did a boudoir of gold abaca and velvet pillows.

Rosales, inspired by "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," did the Mad Hatter's tea party through copper silk and sheer with oversized sequins.

Prieto-Valdes combined Bollywood glitz and glamour with "Aladdin" and came up with draped sheer and metallic, and embellished pillows.

The Silk Cocoon Lifestyle Showroom opens at the newly renovated LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel Air II, Makati, on Jan. 27.

"THE LORAX" inspired Impy Pilapil.

TESSA Prieto-Valdes

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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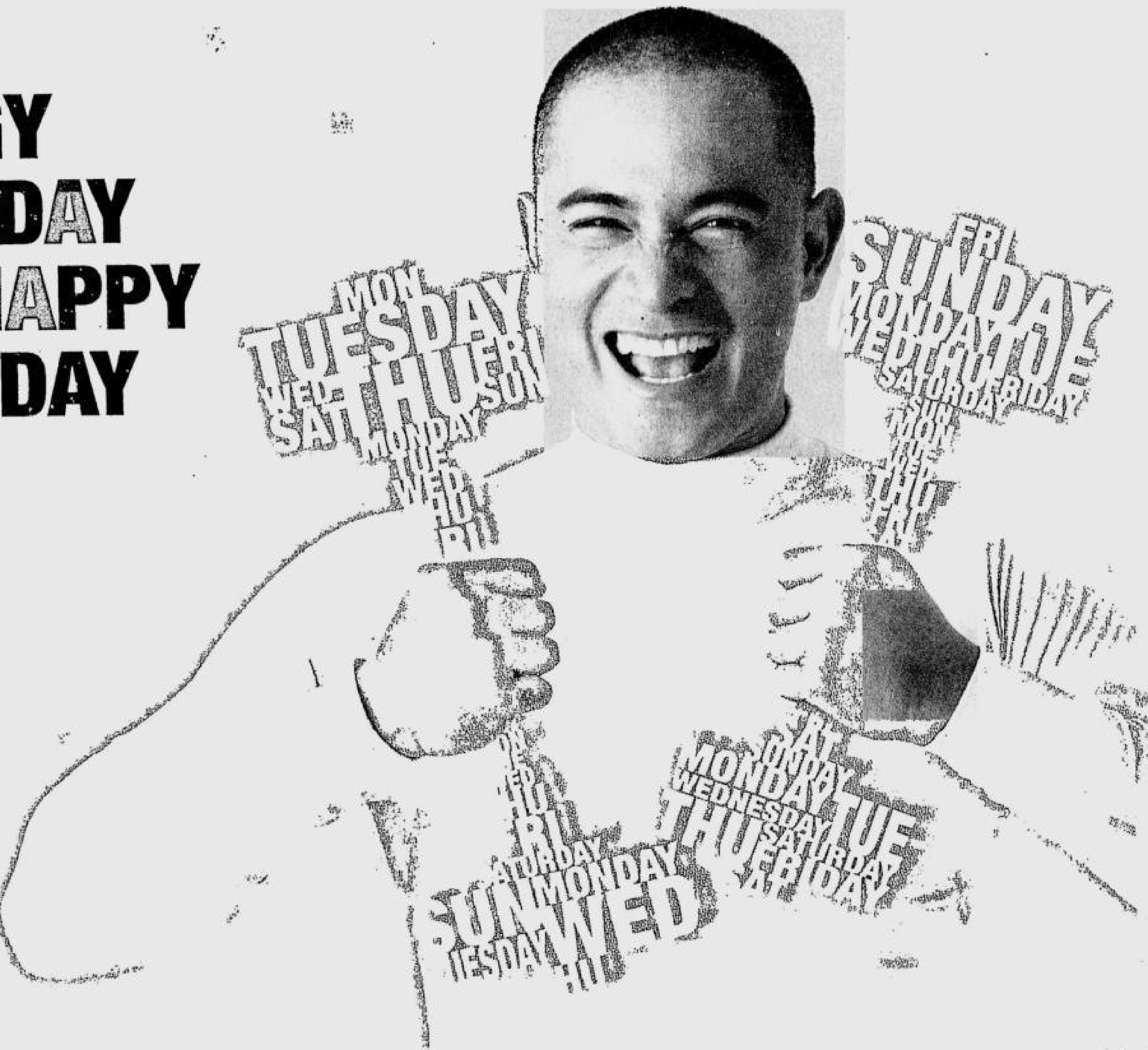

MORE
ENERGY
EVERYDAY
MAS HAPPY
EVERYDAY

more Energy
mas Happy

MULTIVITAMINS
ENERVON

ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

AURAEUS Solito in Sundance last year, with Wim Wenders, the German director behind such acclaimed films as "Wings of Desire," "Paris, Texas" and "Buena Vista Social Club."

Sundance taps Pinoy filmmaker as speaker

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

PARK CITY, UTAH—AS WE ADJUST TO THIS snow-covered vacation destination, quite different from palm-tree dotted Los Angeles, please allow us our final musings on the Globes:

Amid the frenzy as the big day neared, our biggest (cheap) thrill came from hearing Donald Duck on the phone. **Tony Anselmo**, grateful for a ticket to Hollywood's biggest party, gave an impromptu sample of animation's most distinctive voice. He has been the voice of Donald (Duck, that is) since 1985. **Clarence "Ducky" Nash** himself, the original voice talent behind the world's most famous duck, trained Tony.

Brain goof

Thank you to the many readers who pointed out that the last name of **Maggie Gyllenhaal's** fiancé, **Peter**, is Sarsgaard, not Gyllenhaal. We wrote that Friday column at four in the morning, after working and covering the Globes and the after-parties. We'll tell our sleepy brain goof to Peter whom we'll meet at brunch today, Sunday, in Sundance. Peter is one of our favorite persons in Hollywood. He found a perfect partner in Maggie, another nice person—just like her brother, Jake. And we forgot to add the word "nominee" after "Golden Globe Best Supporting Actor" in our description of Brad Pitt.

Back in Sundance

After scoring the distinction of having directed the first movie from the Philippines to participate in Sundance's World Cinema Competition (Dramatic Category) last year, independent filmmaker **Auraeus Solito** is back here with his film "Tuli" and as a participant in a panel discussion where he is billed as "an openly gay Palawano islander." That is a curious label but the director, in his e-mail to us before he boarded a plane for the US, assured us that it was in keeping with the topic of the panel discussion, "The Burden of Representation."

A press release from the Sundance Film Festival explained what "The Burden...," is all about: "Whether it's speaking on behalf of all Native Americans or all Asian Americans or all gays, the burden of representation can weigh a lot. Join an openly gay Palawano Islander, a Jewish Maori, a Seminole Okie and a host of others whose films step outside 'conventional' representation and explore what it means to speak for one's self rather than an entire community."

SUNDANCE/ F3

Cinemalaya presents 2007 crop

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

STREET GANGS IN TONDO. Science high-school students. The Ivatans of Batanes. A letter-writing simpleton from Silay. Contractual mall workers. A paralyzed artist. A kid who yearns to buy a bicycle. Small-town folk gripped by a crime of passion. Bernalesque city dwellers. And the thief who stole one from Imelda Marcos' 3,000 pairs of shoes.

These are some of the colorful characters that viewers will meet in the third Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival, spearheaded by the Cinemalaya Foundation, Cultural Center of the Philippines, UP Film Institute and Econolink Investment Inc. (Dream Satellite).

Unique

"We made it a point to choose scripts that are unique," CCP president Nes Jardin told INQUIRER Entertainment. "These are out-of-the-box stories."

"These scripts are set in urban and rural areas. There are stories of love and passion. There's drama and comedy. But definitely, these are not formula genre films," competition director Laurice Guillen agreed.

Jardin related that the festival's selection committee—composed of writers Nestor Torre and Juaniyo Arcellana, producer Robbie Tan and film editor Manet Dayrit—selected the 10 finalists from a total of 240 submitted screenplays in the full-length category.

The 10 finalists are "Ligaw Liham" by Emilio "Jay" Abello VI, "Kadin (Goat)" by Adolfo Alix Jr., "Endo" by Jade Castro, "Still Life" by Katrina Flores, "2,999" by James

CINEMALAYA/ F4

DID YOU KNOW...

Robin reigns

OVERNIGHT RATings of "Asian Treasures" for its pilot telecast on Monday hit 41.8 percent in Mega Manila, according to AGB Nielsen, a media research company.

The GMA 7 adventure series showcases the first screen coupling of Robin Padilla and Angel Locsin.

"Kapamilya Deal or No Deal," aired on rival network ABS-CBN in the same time slot, trailed with 27.2 percent, even with guest Vice President Noli de Castro playing for the P4 million jackpot, according to the same survey.

High hopes

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment TV, told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday she expects "Asian Treasures" to soar even higher in the ratings game.

But she pointed out that the series, based on historical facts, was about five points shy of the ratings of "Darna," which piloted with 47 percent last year.

"'Darna' aired during the summer when school was out," she explained of the *komiks* classic series penned by Mars Ravelo, with Angel Locsin in the title role. *Nini Valera*

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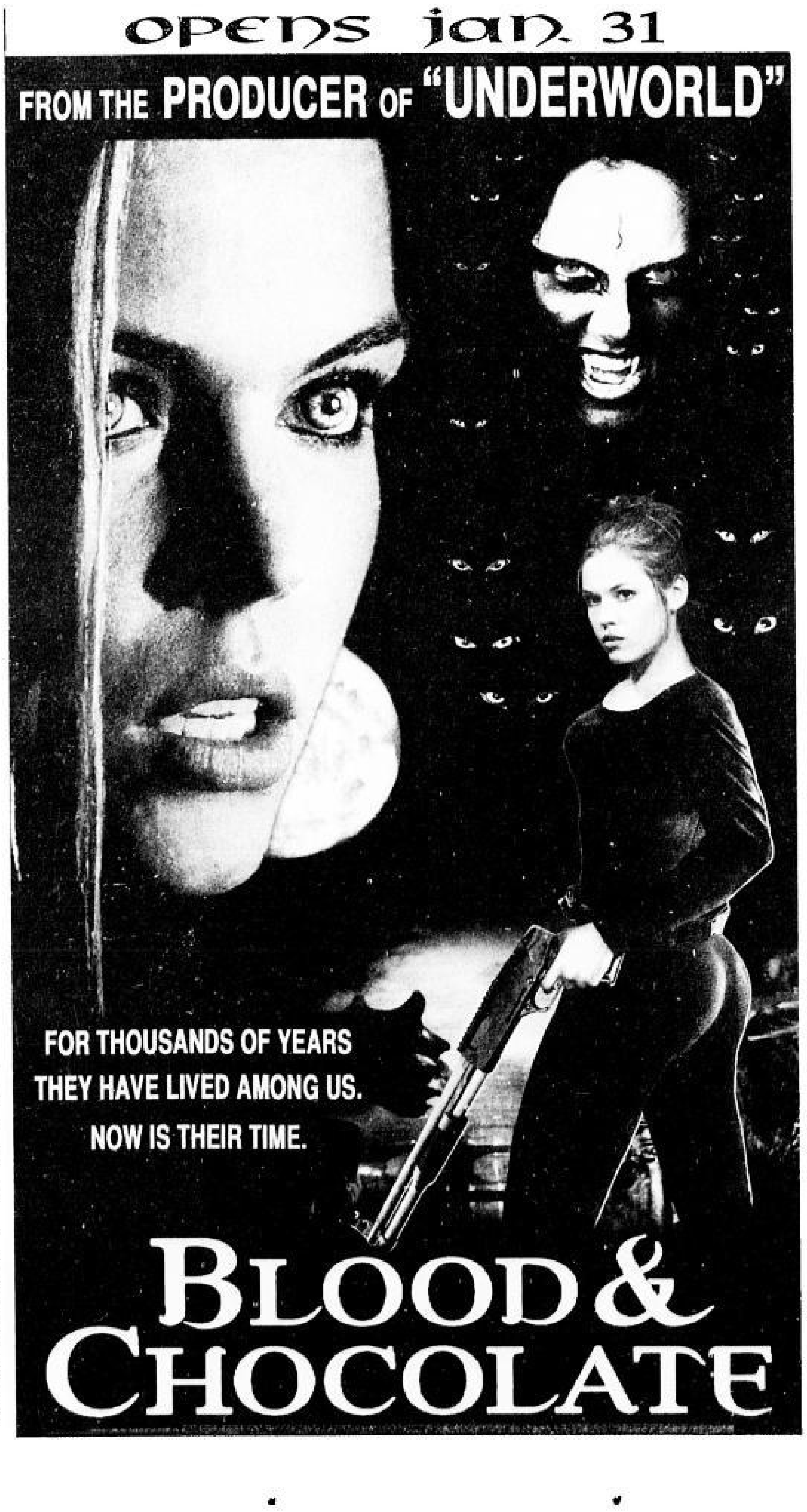

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DEJAVU 1:40 / 4:20 / 7 00 / 9 50
ARTHUR & THE INVINCIBLES 1:45 / 4:20 / 6.55 / 9:30
ROB-B-HOOD 1:10 / 4 00 / 6 50 / 9.40
GRIFFIN & PHOENIX 2:10 / 4.40 / 7 10 / 9:40
ERAGON 2 20 / 2 40 / 5:00 / 7 20 / 9 50
KASAL, KASALI, KASALO [illegible]
THE BLOOD DIAMOND .05 / 4 00 / 6.55 / 9 5
DEJAVU 1:00 / 3 40 / 6 20 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

AGENT X-44 11:55 / 2 05 / 4 15 / 6.25 / 8:35
SAW 3 12:00 R4 / 1 20 / 3 40 / 6:00 / 8:20
DEJAVU 12:00 / 2 40 / 5:20 / 8:00
KASAL, KASALI, KASALO 11.55 / 2.05 / 4.15 / 6.25 / 8.35
ARTHUR & THE INVINCIBLES 1:00 / 3:35 / 6.10 / 8 45
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 ERAGON • THX
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

2 AGENT X44
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9.50

3 indieSine's Digital Cinema
Bagong Agos Film Festival

4 DEJA VU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
12.30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9.50

8 SAW 3
12.00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

9 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

10 ROB-B-HOOD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 DEJA VU
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 ROB-B-HOOD 12:00 2:15
BLOOD DIAMOND 4.40 7:20 10:00

3 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
10:10 12:30 2.50 5:10 7.30 9.50

4 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 AGENT X44
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 SAW 3
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

7 ERAGON
10.20 12:30 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8190 / 682-8199

1 ROB-B-HOOD
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 AGENT X44
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 DEJA VU
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

4 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 BLOOD DIAMOND
12:10 3.00 5:55 9:00

6 SAW 3
11.10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

7 ERAGON
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

8 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 DEJA VU
2 ERAGON
3 AGENT X44
4 SAW 3
5 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
6 ROB-B-HOOD

PIONEER 687-5378

1 DEJA VU
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

2 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

3 AGENT X44
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

4 SAW 3
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:20

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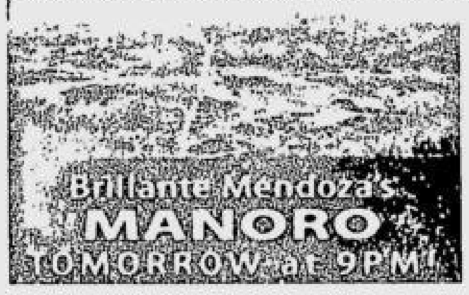

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5 AGENT X44

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2 AGENT X44
3 ERAGON
4 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
5 DEJA VU

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1 DEJA VU
2 BLOOD DIAMOND
3 SAW 3
4 AGENT X44

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2 AGENT X44
3 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
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5 ROB-B-HOOD
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2 ROB-B-HOOD
3 AGENT X44
4 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
5 SAW 3
6 ERAGON

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0456

1 DEJA VU
2 ERAGON
3 AGENT X44
4 DECK THE HALLS
5 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
6 KAMASUTRA 3

ILOILO (033) 336-6070

1 ERAGON
2 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
3 AGENT X44
4 DEJA VU
5 TENACIOUS D
6 DECK THE HALLS

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3 BLOOD DIAMOND
4 DÉJÀ VU

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1 ERAGON
2 DÉJÀ VU
3 AGENT X 44
4 ARTHUR & INVISIBLES

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 AGENT X 44
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX DÉJÀ VU
5 RESRVED

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2 DÉJÀ VU
3 ERAGON
4 SAW

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2 ARTHUR & INVISIBLES
3 DÉJÀ VU
4 ERAGON
5 BLOOD DIAMOND
6 DÉJÀ VU
7 ROB-B-HOOD
8 AGENT X 44
9 AGENT X 44
10 KASAL KASALI KASALO

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 ARTHUR & THE INVINSIBLES
2 (DOLBY) AGENT X 44
3 (DOLBY) DÉJÀ VU
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 DÉJÀ VU
2 ERAGON
3 AGENT X 44
4 ARTHUR & INVISIBLES
5 SAW

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
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1 AGENT X 44
2 DÉJÀ VU
3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA 2000
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1 AGENT X 44
2 DÉJÀ VU
3 SAW

Center Mall Cinema
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1 ERAGON
2 DÉJÀ VU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 DÉJÀ VU
2 LIGALIG (BATANG MAYNILA)
3 SAW
4 ERAGON

Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 MANO PO-5
2 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
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1 ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES
2 ERAGON
3 DÉJÀ VU
4 SAW 3

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 DÉJÀ VU
3 AGENT X 44
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3 RESERVED
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2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU

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3 DÉJÀ VU
4 ERAGON

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2 ERAGON
3 AGENT X 44

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2 ENTENG KABISOTE - 3

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(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 PURI
3 SABIK SA HALIK
4 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Llanas MovieCity
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1 DÉJÀ VU
2 BABASAGIN CRYSTAL
3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 AGENT X 44
5 ERAGON

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 ERAGON
3 AGENT X 44
4 DÉJÀ VU

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ARTHUR & INVISIBLE
2 ROB-B-HOOD

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SpongeCola's 'Transit' album mall tour

THE SPONGECOLA "TRANSIT" album mall tour goes to SM Molino, Cavite today at 5 p.m.

Released by Universal Records and is fast approaching the platinum mark, the album carries the hit single "Bitiw," theme tune of "Komiks Presents: Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko" fantasy TV series on ABS-CBN.

An autograph signing follows the free concert.

SPONGECOLA

PDA in Pampanga

Out of the Academy, into the concert scene.

Pinoy Dream Academy graduates Yeng Constantino, Jay Siaboc, Panky Trinidad, Irish Fullerton, Chad Peralta and Ronnie Liang go onstage at the Expo Pilipino Clark Field Pampanga on Feb. 10.

Call 433-9164.

Metro Phi anniversary

Metro Phi Resto Bar celebrates its second anniversary on Jan. 29 at Metrowalk, Ortigas with Luke Mejares, Ntwine, Margarita, Upstart, Tribe of Levi and OJ Mariano.

Call 638-8896.

SHOW TIME

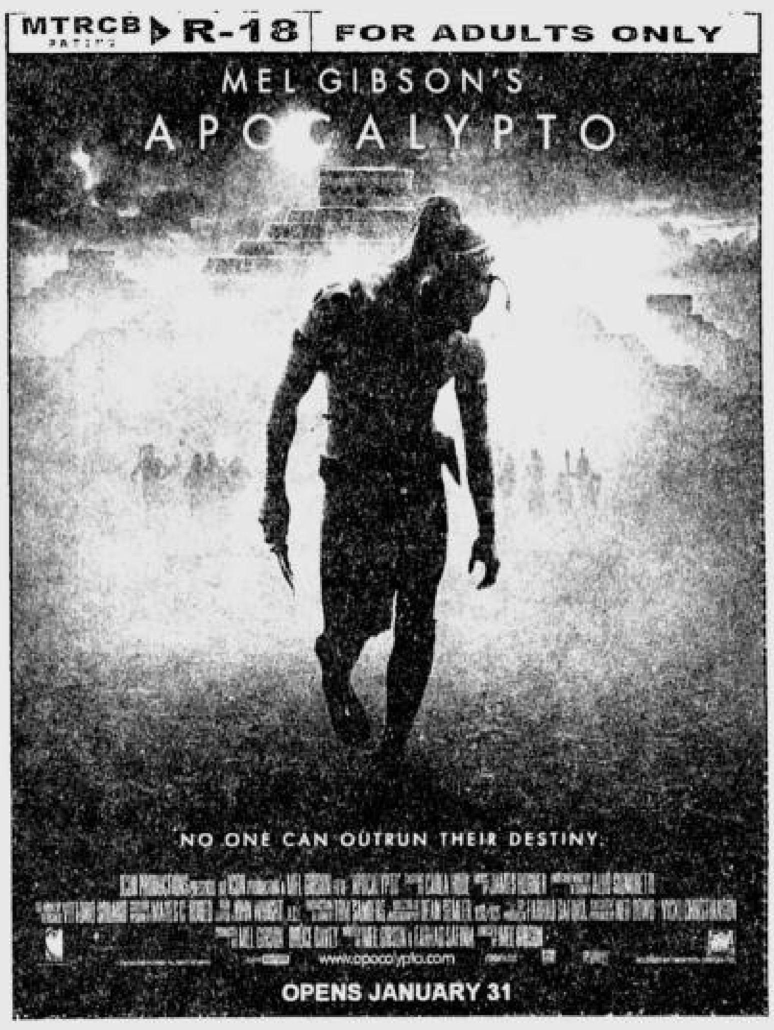
Today
Kim Chui at Starmall Edsa; 4 p.m.

Tomorrow
Jojo A at RJTV Bar, Jupiter Street, Makati

Jan. 23
Jojo A with Dale Adriatico at RJTV Bar, Jupiter Street, Makati

Jan. 24
The Spirit of '67 at The Bellevue Hotel in Alabang; 9 p.m.

Jojo A with Midnight Connection at RJTV Bar, Jupiter Street, Makati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EVERYTHING COMES TO LIFE
BEN STILLER
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
OPENS JANUARY 24

Sundance taps Pinoy ...

From page F1

While "Tuli" is in an out-of-competition section called "Spectrum," its inclusion in Sundance is still quite an honor for Auraeus. The Sundance Institute announced that this year, only 123 films were selected from 3,287 submissions. "Spectrum" is billed as "a tribute to the abundance of compelling new voices and the creative spirit in independent filmmaking. The program presents 24 ... dramatic and documentary films from some of the most promising new filmmakers from the US and around the world."

The following is our Q and A interview via e-mail with Auraeus, who accomplished another feat for Philippine cinema when "The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros" became the first Filipino film to be nominated in next month's Independent Spirit Awards.

> Auraeus Solito: I always thought the West was more open, but just because I am open about myself, a lot of writers love to describe me as 'openly gay filmmaker'

What are your thoughts on your participation in Sundance, this second time around?

I was a bit swept away last year. This time, I know better. I will be the tracker and host of my brilliant (screenplay) writer, **Jimmy Flores**. I will focus more on the workshops than the parties.

What is your best memory of Sundance last year?

It was my first winter. So I have fond memories of seeing the beautiful, snow-covered landscape on the way to the directors' brunch with **Robert Redford**. And, of course, seeing Robert Redford himself, right beside my table. I was star-struck for the first time.

What are you looking forward to in Sundance this year?

The digital technology workshops, my reunion with old friends like you, the waiters in China Panda, the brilliant programmers and organizers of Sundance and my Native American and Indigenous filmmaker friends. Plus, I am traveling with my partner of seven years. I can finally show him what I experienced last year.

With a different film, "Tuli," do you think Sundance will be a different experience for you this time?

Since "Tuli" was rated "X" in the Philippines, and I never saw it with an audience here, I am excited how an American audience will react to the film since it is more rural and features the lush forests of our provinces, in contrast to "Maximo" which was set in Manila.

What are your thoughts as you prepare to speak as "an openly gay Palawano islander" (as a Sundance film festival press release states it) in a panel discussion titled "The Burden of Representation"?

Exactly what the panel points at. Native programmer Bird Runningwater wanted to put the cliché labels as a pun on how people label other people. I have no qualms about my sexuality. It's funny—I always thought the West was more open, but just because I am open about myself, a lot of writers worldwide love to describe me as, "Openly gay filmmaker, Auraeus Solito." Yes, I'm open but must they label me all the time just because I am open?

Sundance hopefuls

Among the Sundance entries creating a buzz are:

"Hounddog," with **Dakota Fanning**, 12, as a rape victim.

"Zoo," an entry in the documentary competition, about a group of men who had sex with horses until one of these guys died of a punctured colon. Yes, this really happened in Washington State.

"Teeth," which is vying in the dramatic competition, tells the story of a high school student who finds out that she has a "physical advantage" when she is subjected to male violence. To put it more directly, she discovers that her sexual organ has what is referred to in the title.

As a Web site blogger wrote, it looks like a chomping-romp-of-a-good-time up in the snowy mountains of Utah.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

'Madeline: Lost in Paris'

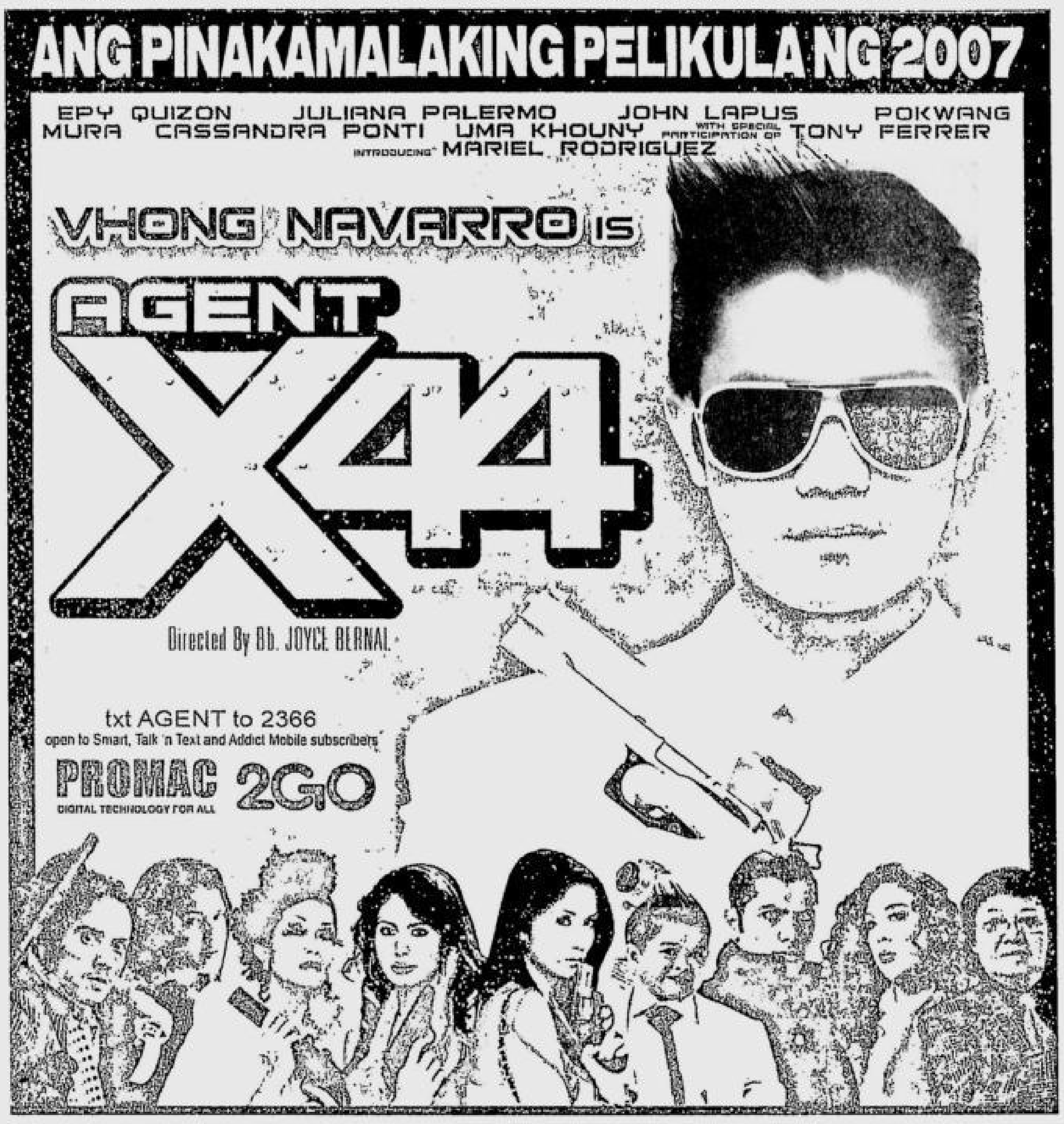
KID FIT

CARTOON Network Theater features "Madeline: Lost in Paris," a story of a French girl full of mischief and charm who lives in a Paris boarding school.

When her long-lost uncle from Vienna pays a surprise visit, Madeline seems fulfilled, until she finds herself in the middle of his unfortunate scheme.

Headmistress Miss Clavel, the Spanish ambassador's son Pepito, 11 school friends and smart dog Genevieve rush to rescue Madeline.

The episode airs on Jan. 28 at 8 a.m.


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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G1	1 SAW 3	2 DÉJÀ VU	3 ROB-B-HOOD	4 AGENT X44
G4	1 BLOOD DIAMOND	2 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO	3 THX DÉJÀ VU GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 INNOCENT VOICES	5 ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES	6 ERAGON	7 SAW 3
GB1	1 SAW 3	2 DÉJÀ VU		
GB3	1 THX ERAGON GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DÉJÀ VU GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 INNOCENT VOICES GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SAW 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BLOOD DIAMOND GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX DÉJÀ VU GUARANTEED SEATS	2 ERAGON		
	3 SAW 3	4 AGENT X44	5 ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES	
ACC	1 DÉJÀ VU	2 SAW 3	3 A GOOD YEAR	4 AGENT X44
M2	1 AGENT X44	2 DÉJÀ VU		
	3 SAW 3	4 ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES	5 KASAL KASALI KASALO	

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Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 l: 124
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Honda Car Exhibit January 19 to 23, 2007	Power Rangers Space Patrol Delta (SPD) Meet & Greet Event January 21, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Artbeat Album Launching January 28, 2007	Nestle Breakfast Cereals Event January 6 to 7, 2007

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents Collection of Arnel Papa
January 10 to 21, 2007

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents MOOSE MURDERS
at REP's Globe Theater - January 12 to 28, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Zero-In 5 Convergence Black Bouquet: Juvenal Sanso Prints
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--- Norm Wilner / METRO TORONTO

"... MAGIC..."
--- Peter Travers / ROLLING STONE

★★★★
"BRILLIANT!"
--- Shawn Edward / FOX-TV

Will Ferrell
Stranger than Fiction

Emma Thompson Dustin Hoffman
Maggie Gyllenhaal Queen Latifah

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

COLUMBIA PICTURES glorietta GREENBELT

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OPENS JANUARY 24

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HAPPY FEET IN 2D
7:15PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
SANTA VS THE SNOWMAN
1:00PM 4:45PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
DEJA VU
BLOOD DIAMOND
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
ROB-B-HOOD
KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
PREMIERE CINEMA
AGENT X44
CENTERSTAGE
ERAGON
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
ERAGON
CINEMA 2
DEJA VU
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
ROB-B-HOOD
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
ERAGON
KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
ERAGON
DEJA VU
AGENT X44
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
ENTENG KABISOTE 3
BLOOD DIAMOND
AGENT X44

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DEJA VU
BLOOD DIAMOND
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AGENT X44
ROB-B-HOOD
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
MATAKOT KA SA KARMA
ENTENG KABISOTE 3
AGENT X44
ERAGON
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL 8
GRIFFIN & PHOENIX

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
MANO PO 5
AGENT X44
BLOOD DIAMOND
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KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
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ERAGON
AGENT X44
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL 8
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SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
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ERAGON
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AGENT X44

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ERAGON
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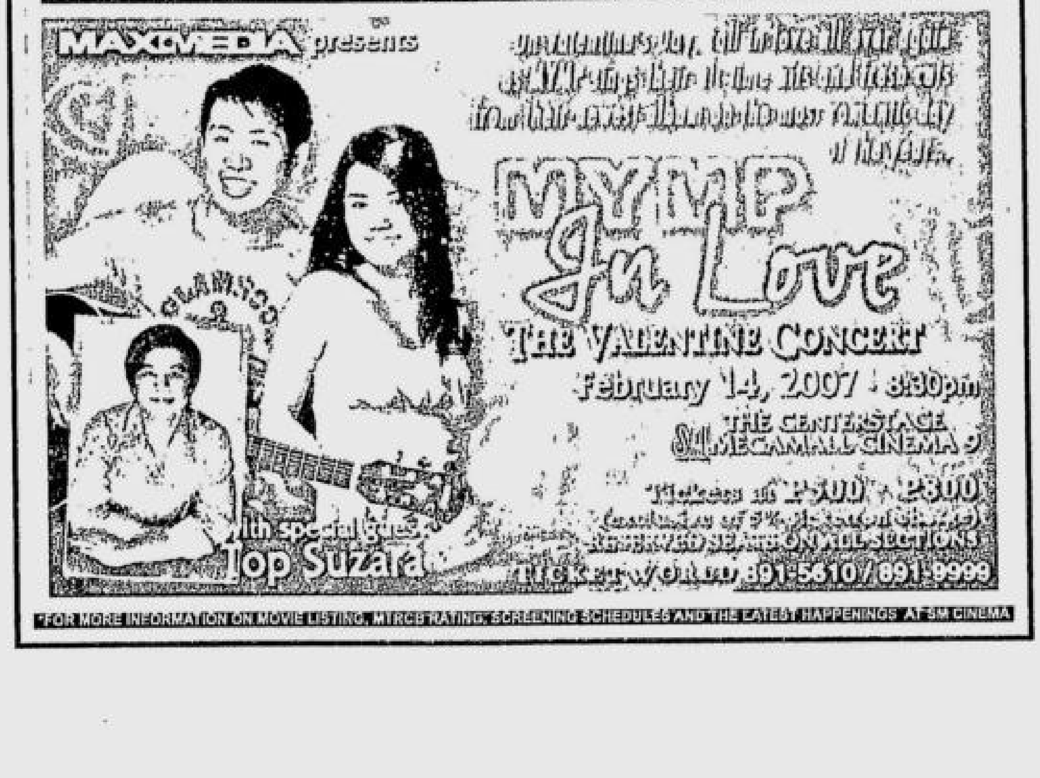
SHOWTIME Event Calendar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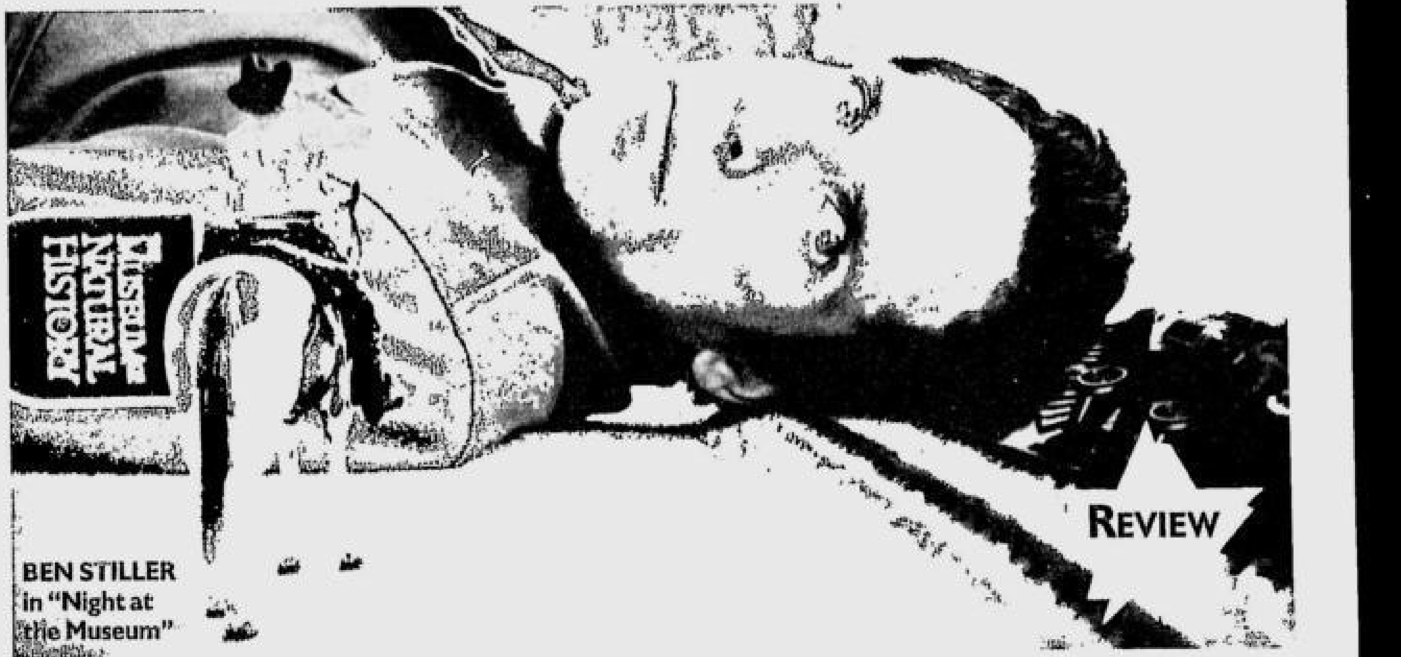

BEN STILLER in "Night at the Museum"

History in the breaking

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

LIKE "JUMANJI," "ZATHURA" AND other kiddie movies that involve time travel or inanimate objects that come to life, "Night at the Museum" is a family-oriented film that has its share of obvious life lessons and smarmy special effects. It's another take on "the unreal crosses over to our reality" idea, but the magical dimension-hopping happens en masse in a unique, but somewhat logical location.

New York's Natural History Museum, apparently, doesn't just serve as an educational venue; by nightfall, its wax and stone statues and artifacts mysteriously come alive and interact with each other. This bewilders and frightens the new night watchman Larry (Ben Stiller).

Inspired by the children's book illustrated by Milan Trenc, the film by Shawn Levy pits modern man against historical and mythical figures and some extinct and existing wildlife. There's a lot of chasing that ensues; Larry has to steer clear of some bloodthirsty Huns, wild jungle animals, dog-headed Egyptian giants and an animated t-rex skeleton.

He's quickly infuriated by bickering miniature diorama figures (the cowboys and the ancient Roman soldiers) and a mischievous, thieving monkey.

That's pretty much it; he has to outthink the pesky characters and show them who's boss, and befriend the more level-headed ones like the replica of US president Teddy Roosevelt (Robin Williams) and the mummified Pharaoh Ahkmenrah (Rami Malek).

Stiller plays someone who's endlessly harassed and that mostly works. It's largely dependent on how goofy his reactions are to the mostly rowdy museum inhabitants so there's nothing new in terms of his facial expressions and body language.

Strange and dumb

Also, for something that's happening at a place where knowledge is imparted, the humor tends to become really strange and quite dumb. The living Easter Island statue's obsession with bubble gum and over-killed jokes involving the building's paging system and the monkey come to mind.

Larry has to stick with the harrowing job, as he's fast becoming a loser in the eyes of his son Nick (Jake Cherry). Dad needs to find stability, workwise and be a hero to the boy, for once. So in a manner of speaking, he's rewriting history between him and his kid, while he's practically doing the same for the museum by introducing peaceful coexistence between its agitated nocturnal beings.

Interesting lesson

You might learn an interesting history lesson or two, but enjoying "Night at the Museum" can be a bit of a challenge. Appearances by Owen Wilson, Ricky Gervais and veterans Dick Van Dyke, Mickey Rooney and Bill Cobbs are merely adequate, and only slightly amusing.

The film's busy widescreen, effects-filled tableaus, however, can be viewed in all their near-tangible glory via the Imax theater (where the preview screening was held). But the humongous screen tends to reveal makeup application strokes, skin pores and other things that may not necessarily be visible on regular screens.

Anyway, "Night at the Museum" easily addresses its family drama aspect, and a couple of subplots between the animated beings get some similarly favorable resolutions. But it's not as imaginative as it could've been and interest may falter because the different subplots run almost concurrently.

The protagonist could've learned more about the myriad cultures and creatures in the confines of that building, and his adventure should've been smarter given the available concepts, but the film didn't realize that potential to its fullest.

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ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
G

ERAGON
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
G

DÉJÀ VU
2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:05
PG-13

SAW 3
12:45, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40
R-18

Cinemalaya presents …

From page F1

Arnold B. Ladioray, "Sa Ilalim ng Sinungaling na Buwan" by Eduardo Lejano Jr., "Tribu" by Jim Libiran, "Gulong" by Jeannie Lim and Socorro Fernandez, "Tukso" by Dennis Marasigan and "Pisay" by Auraeus Solito.

Jardin and Guillen pointed out "repeaters" this year: Solito who directed "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" from the first batch and Alix who directed "Donsol" from the second.

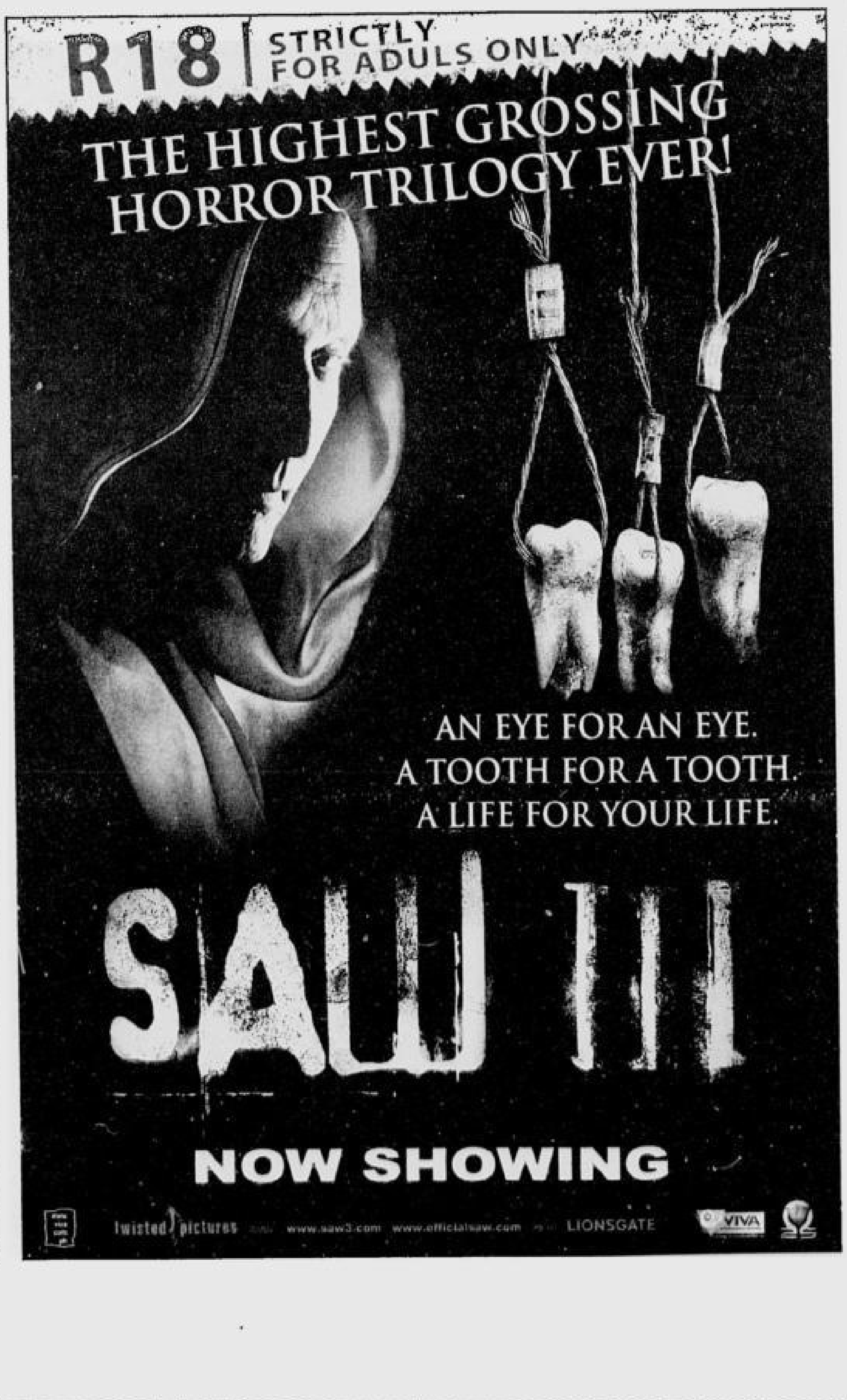
Castro is from ufo Pictures, the same production team behind "Maximo."

Jardin also noted that two officers, Marasigan and Lejano (both Cinema One filmmakers), had resigned from CCP and UP, Cinemalaya proponents, before landing in the Top Ten this year.

A P500,000 seed grant will be given so that the 10 finalists can complete their digital works. "The head of this year's monitoring committee is filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya, who took over from Tan," said Guillen.

The Cinemalaya is accepting entries for the short film category until Feb. 20. The indie film festival will run at the CCP from July 20 to 29, according to Ed Cabagnot, festival programmer.

The Best Film winner will receive a trophy, plus an additional P200,000 grant.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More second chances

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TEEN FAVES KIM CHIU AND GERALD Anderson became popular when they were fellow boarders on "Pinoy Big Brother." After they left the reality show, they were cast in a teen movie that, unfortunately, didn't do as well as expected at the tills.

In the highly competitive and *segurista* movie industry, that's like the kiss of death for young talents' careers. But Kim and Gerald remain popular with fans, so ABS-CBN is taking another chance on their love team by tapping them to star in a new teen-romance series, "Sana Maulit Muli."

The *teleserye* has just started telecasting so we don't know how viewers are responding to it. On point of performance, however, Kim is still having articulation problems, and Gerald's portrayal looks dull and strained, so there's a lot of room for improvement.

Hope they get their act together in time, so that the second chance they've been given won't be a wasted effort.

On the big screen, it's pint-sized actor Mura who's being given another chance to shine in Star Cinema's first film for 2007, "Agent X-44." A spoof of the '60s movie series starring Tony Ferrer, Joyce Bernal's action-comedy film looks visually interesting and has its tongue firmly in cheek, so it could click with moviegoers.

More pertinently, Mura is given a showy role as lead star Vhong Navarro's Wee sidekick and Mini-me. Never mind that the production has Austin Powers and "Goldmember" written all over it. If the local rip-off works, that's fine—and Mura will also benefit from the film's success.

Internationally, it's Jennifer Hudson who's flying high in her comeback as second-lead player in the hit musical, "Dreamgirls." Hudson recently guested on David Letterman's talk show and blew the studio audience's socks off with her exciting rendition of a demanding a number from the film.

She reminded everyone that she was only No. 7 in her batch of "American Idol" finalists, the year Fantasia Barrino romped off with the title. Was America wrong in booting her off so early in the finals? Well—duh!

To sharpen the point even more, Hudson won her star-making role in "Dreamgirls" after auditions participated in by more than 700 other singers—including Fantasia herself.

Well, it's all paying off big-time for Hudson, who's been nominated for her show-stopping film performance, and is now the hottest new talent in US entertainment.

She's looking better, too, with her effective weight-reduction regimen melting the fat off her plus-size frame, and allowing her beauty to finally shine through. Wish our own Mau Marcelo could be as disciplined.

Finally, Billy Crawford is back in town, after carving a stellar career form himself in Europe. The young singer-actor now wants to beef up his career here, and fans should welcome him back, because the experience he's gained abroad could energize the local performance scene.

There's talk that Billy is no longer as popular abroad as he used to be, but the young recording artist nixes the rumor. In any case, he can do a lot of good things here, so he's definitely welcome, and more than deserves a second chance to make it again in Philippine entertainment—this time, on his own terms.

On DVD

"Superman Returns" now soars on DVD from Warner Home Video. Directed by Bryan Singer ("X-Men"), the sci-fi actioner stars Brandon Routh, Kate Bosworth and Kevin Spacey. The two-disc special edition includes bonus features like additional scenes, a "Resurrecting Jor-El" featurette, and a full-length documentary, "Requiem for Krypton: Making Superman Returns."

"The Lake House," starring Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock, is about a love so strong that it can overcome obstacle of time. In the poignant time-travel romance, a frustrated architect and a lonely doctor discover a magical mailbox that allows them to communicate with each other despite the two-year chasm that separates them.

The DVD also includes deleted scenes and the film's trailer. Aljandro Agresti directs.

Julia Roberts
Dakota Fanning
Steve Buscemi
John Cleese
Oprah Winfrey
Cedric The Entertainer
Kathy Bates
Reba McEntire
Robert Redford
Thomas Haden Church
André Benjamin
Charlotte's Web
Help Is Coming From Above
IN THEATERS JANUARY 31

ROUNDUP

Baby for Barbie

Is Barbie in the market for a cradle?

Rock singer Barbie Almalbis, former lead vocalist of the band Barbie's Cradle, is reportedly in-fanticipating.

It's her first child with husband Martin Honasan, second son of former Sen. Gringo Honasan. It's also the first grandchild of Sen. Gringo.

Although the couple is keeping mum, sources say that Barbie tested positive on her first visit to the doctor.

The couple will soon make a formal announcement at the appropriate time.

BARBIE ALMALBIS

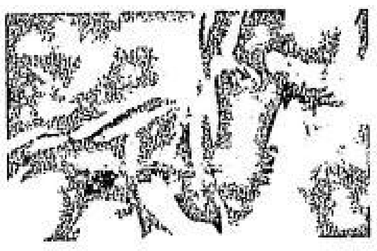
Trailer debut

The trailer of "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" debuts with the opening night of "Night at the Museum" on Jan. 24.

The trailer blasts off when the Fantastic Four meets their greatest challenge as the Silver Surfer comes to earth to prepare it for destruction.

Open auditions

Atlantis Productions announces open call auditions for the Broadway musical "Avenue Q," which premieres in Manila in August.



"FANTASTIC FOUR"

Audition requirements are a musical theater song (16 bars) with a piano score or music-one and a current photograph.

Auditions will be held on Feb. 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ground floor, Oppen Building, 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Call 892-7078.

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 ERAGON MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
2 ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 BLOOD DIAMOND MTRCB R-13 1:00 4:[illegible]
4 DÉJÀ VU MTRCB [illegible] 2:00 4:40
PREMIERE THEATRE SAW 3 MTRCB R-18 12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10
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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 898-1440-41
AGENT X44 PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES G 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10
ERAGON G 12:00, 2:15, 4:35
DÉJÀ VU PG13 6:55, 9:30
BLOOD DIAMOND R13 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25
ROB-B-HOOD PG13 12:50, 3:20
SAW III R18 6:10, 8:20
DÉJÀ VU PG13 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
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GREENHILLS CINEMAS
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CINEMA 1 ERAGON 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40 GP
CINEMA 2 SAW 3 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 R-18
PROMENADE GREENHILLS NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 BLOOD DIAMOND 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30 R-13
CINEMA 4 ARTHUR & THE INVISIBLES 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20 GP
CINEMA 5 DEJA VU 11:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20 PG-13
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EVERY MONDAY — DANCE NIGHT — 7:00 PM
JAN. 23, 30, 2007 — DYORDS KO PO — 8:30 PM
JAN. 24, 2007 — "PAKNERS" 9 Ball Celebrity Challenge — 6:00 PM
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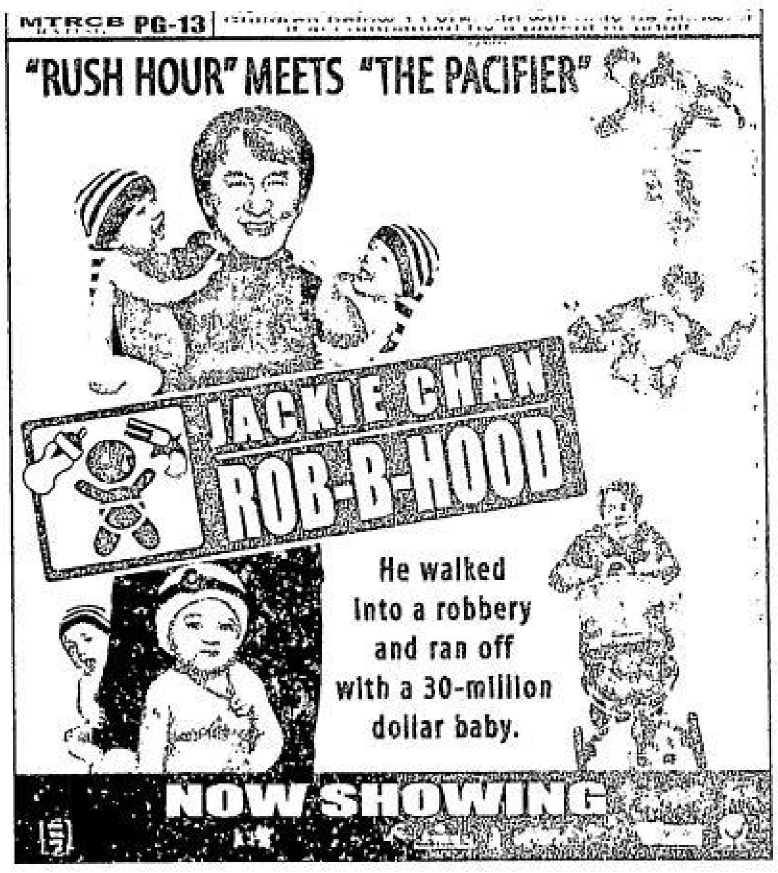
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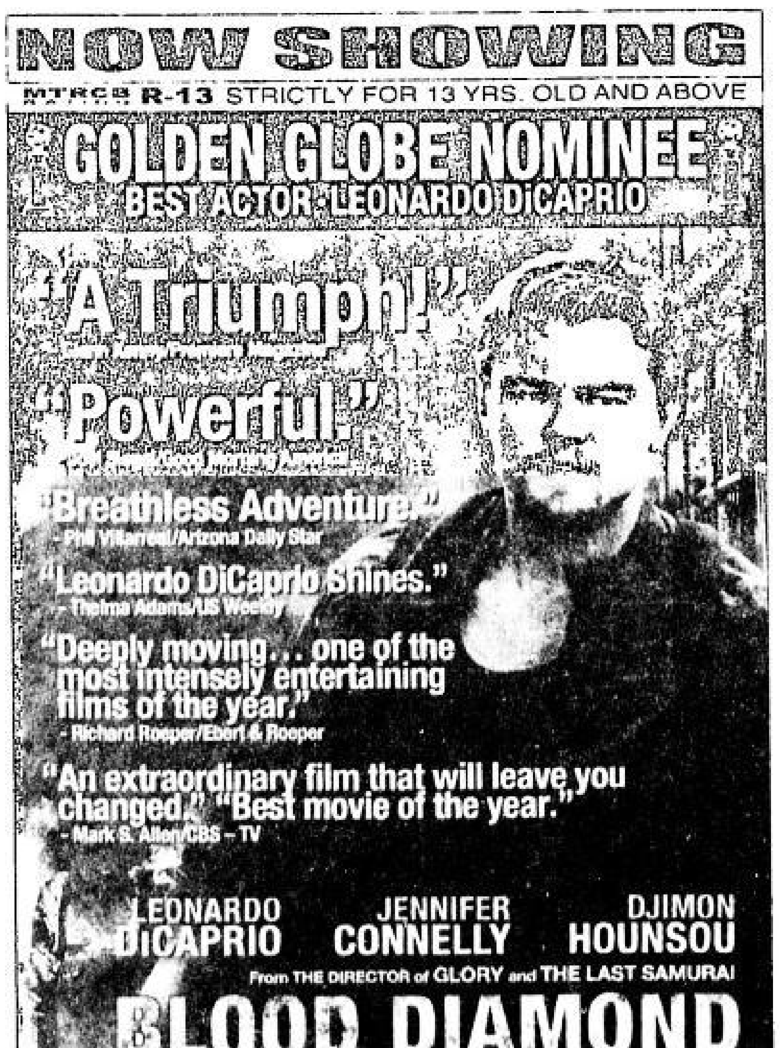
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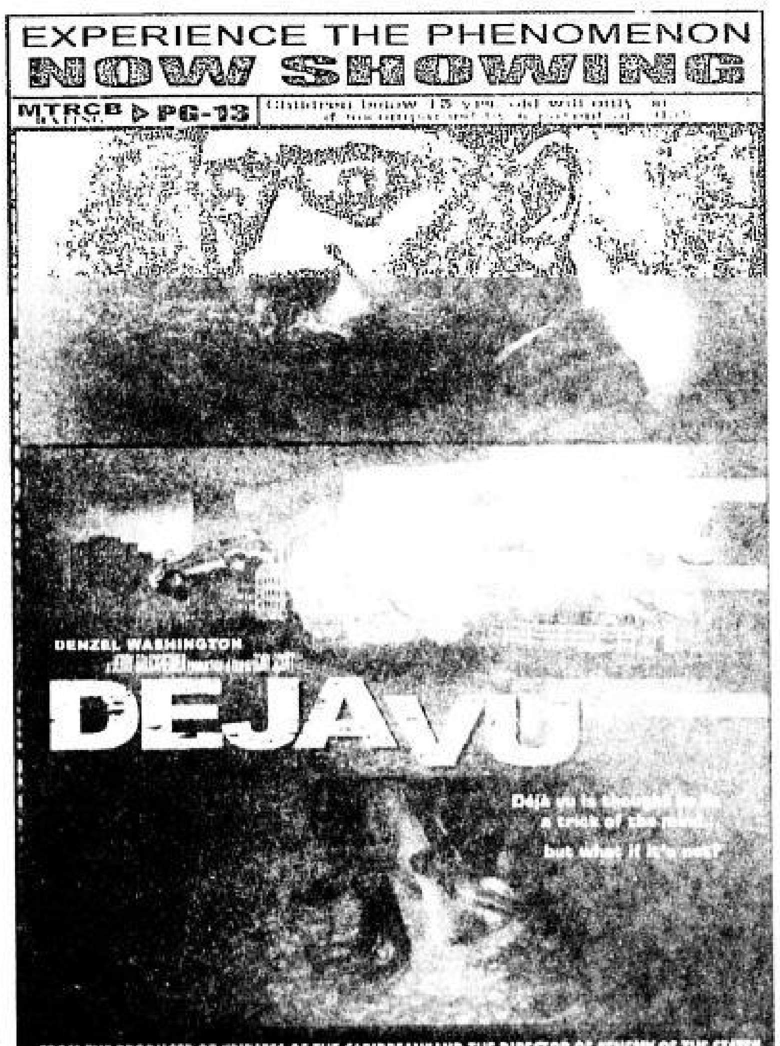
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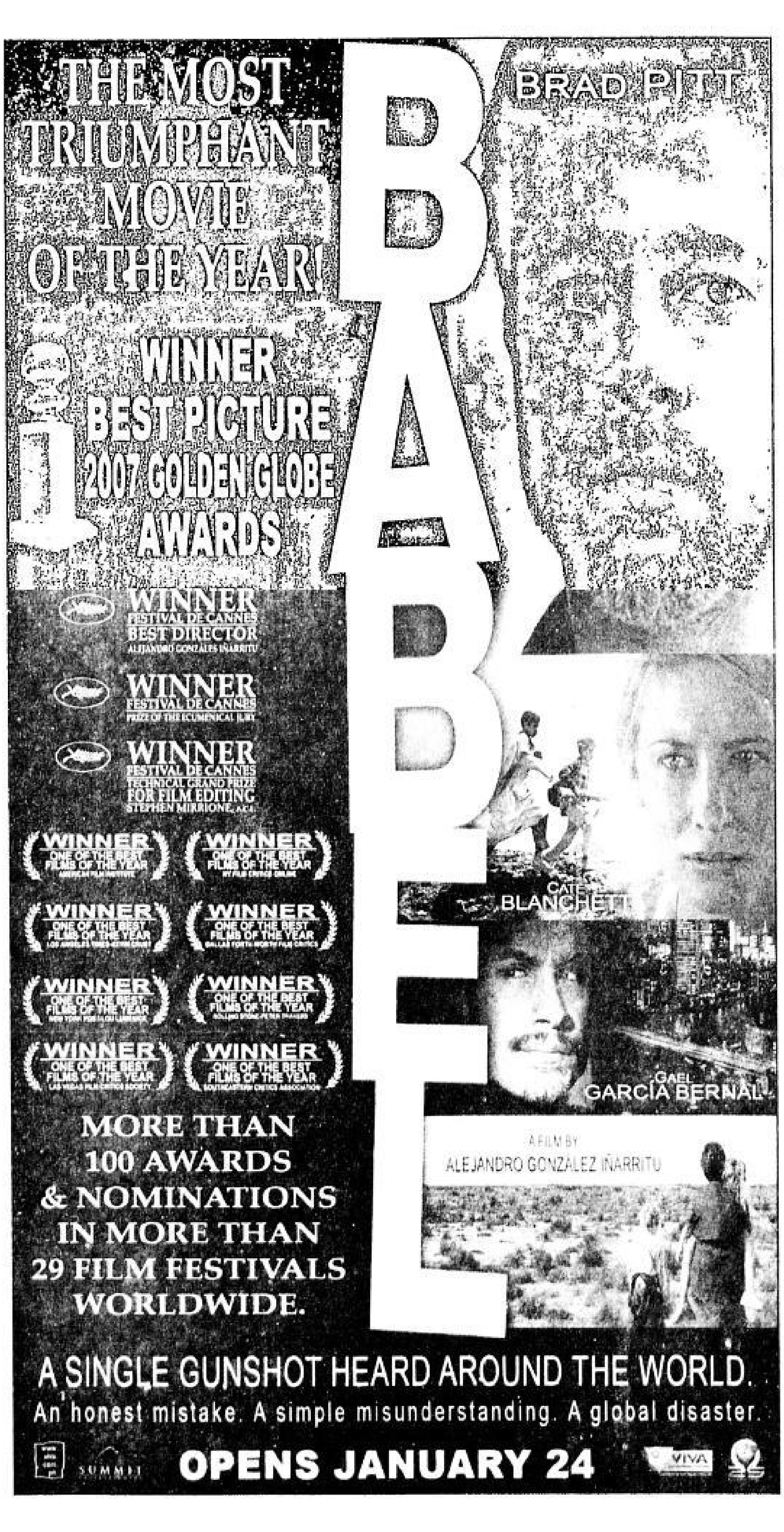
Temptation
Perversion
Deception
Little Children
Kate Winslet Jennifer Connelly Patrick Wilson
OPENS JAN. 24



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WINNER ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR
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SUMMIT
OPENS JANUARY 24
VIVA

AND THIS IS THE FIRST NUMBER. A fully-prepped house greets the visiting Grammy winner. He is overwhelmed.

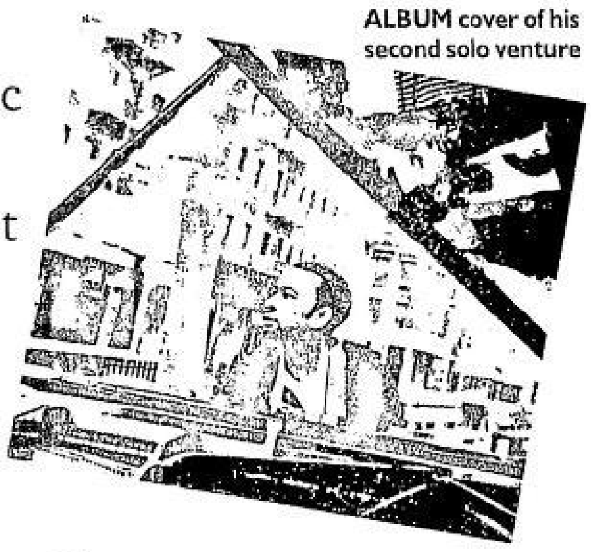
Getting lifted, 'Once Again,' by John Legend

By Emmie G. Velarde

SINGAPORE—JOHN LEGEND IS working hard to fulfill the promise of his name. Monday night at the bayside Esplanade Concert Hall, fans of the 28-year-old, piano-playing triple-Grammy winner glimpse moments of the scenario that he seeks: eager hands stretched out to stroke his garments, adoring faces flushed in anticipation, non-stop dancing, intrepid screaming, quaking, quivering...

The audience is multi-racial, the age range wide. It is the American artist's second stop in the Asian leg of a world tour to promote his second album, "Once Again." His first, the 2006 Grammy smash "Get Lifted," as everybody knows, carried the monster hit, "Ordinary People." (It also delivered at his feet three Best New Artist awards in 2006, plus the Grammy Best Male R&B Vocal Performance and Best R&B Album trophies. Not to mention a sustained and much-heeded endorsement by Oprah Winfrey.)

> 'It feels great that my music has been to places I've yet to see,' says 28-year-old Grammy winner



ALBUM cover of his second solo venture

Bedlam

Legend sets foot onstage in black Converse high-cuts and a white V-neck crew shirt under a sleek black tux, and the mood is set. No, actually, bedlam ensues. Shrieks of "I love you, Johnny!" and even an occasional "*Mahal kita!*" are enthusiastically tossed in his direction—in male and female voices. All but a handful are on their feet and swaying to the music.

The concert hall seats 1,614, and show organizers estimate it is about 80 percent full tonight. But the audience is so cranked up, Legend leaves his piano intermittently to get up close and touchable; in the end he declares it is one of the best he's had—ever. ("I guess I expected a conservative audience," he would say later. "It wasn't at all ... I was surprised.")

It's a specific group, possibly apart from that which trooped to the 5,000-seat Indoor Stadium two days earlier, on Jan. 13, and paid S$399, top ticket, to watch British rock guitarist Eric Clapton; or those who will pay S$488 to see Korean pop superstar Rain this weekend, also at Indoor Stadium.

Legend's admirers paid up to only S$161—to think that this hall, the Esplanade complex's "crown jewel," is local music aficionados' concert venue of choice. It has state-of-the-art acoustics, including an acoustic canopy and reverberating chambers that only four other concert halls in the whole world are said to have. What this means, in two words: optimum sound.

A very engaging performer, to say the least, Legend swings from sensual to spiritual with equal ease. Of course the "I love you, Johnnys!" get lustier and sound more urgent when he tackles such delicious make-out songs as "Save Room," "Slow Dance" and "PDA (We Just Don't Care)." He's quite the dancer, too, this one. But tonight he is most compelling when he does the gospel-infused number "Show Me." (It's his favorite track in "Once Again," he would tell us later.) So this is what he means, to "get lifted."

Whether at the keys or on his feet, Legend is captain of the concert hall, fully in control, as he has been of both solo albums (he was a much in-demand collaborator before striking out on his own). In the same way that there's not a single wandering note or FX on the recordings, there's not a step out of place in this song/dance party.

Morning after

To this city-state of a thousand brands of tea, John Legend has traveled bringing his own favorite brew.

It is the morning after the concert, at the Axis Bar of The Oriental hotel. The singer is giving interviews to the Asian media in a private enclosure. A waiter prepares a pot of tea and then reads the label on the packet. "Theirs," he says to no one in particular. "Throat Coat, by Traditional Medicines. Must be special."

The artist turns up in a white zip-up sweater over black sweat pants. He is perky. And he seems taller than he looked onstage the night before. "How y'all doing?" he mumbles. Or something like that. He has a rich baritone, but it still comes out like a mumble.

We get a short solo spar with a famous subject who's attentive, focused, and effusive. What a treat.

We spotted not a few "golden girls" in the audience. Did you expect to be singing to them, too, when you started?

It's good to be hitting all generations. Music is music, and I certainly don't mind singing to people my age, and younger, and older, and much older...

Now that you've been to Asia, do you foresee distinct Asian sounds finding their way into your future projects?

I haven't explored that but yes, I'm open to the possibility. I've got time.

How did you find out your music had crossed continents?

Friends who had friends in India, or the Philippines told me ... it felt great to know that my music had been to places I had yet to see.

So why aren't you doing Manila on this tour (Asian leg covered Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong)?

I don't know! I should ask my label (Sony BMG). I'd like to go next time.

Taking a cue from last night's lineup, is there a thread that connects the sensual and spiritual experiences for you?

Sensual and spiritual experiences, to me, are both about freedom, escape, transcending immediate realities. If I can take people to a higher place, I'm happy to do that.

Its own groove

If he never wrote another hit, John Legend is guaranteed his own groove in the modern R&B landscape via "Ordinary People," whose refrain seems to have struck a unifying chord in his target markets.

With "Once Again," he stakes a claim on a second awards sweep (keep an ear on "Stereo"). He knows this; and so he is personally introducing the album to the world. No more need to take it slow-oh.

"TONIGHT I WANNA DANCE." The keyboard wiz on his feet, tux peeled off, the better to touch and be touched.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR THE SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Board of Regents of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the CENTRAL LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY (CLSU) is **NOW OPEN**. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Emil Q. Javier.

The minimum qualifications are:

1. Must be a holder of an earned doctoral degree;
2. Must have at least five (5) years managerial and administrative experience preferably in higher education institutions;
3. Must be a Filipino citizen;
4. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the university;
5. Must be of good moral character;
6. Preferably must not be over 61 years of age during time of application.

Application should be accompanied:

1. Formal application letter;
2. Comprehensive curriculum vitaé with picture highlighting the academic, research, extension and production exposure and certified supporting documents;
3. Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the University;
4. NSO authenticated birth and marriage certification;
5. NBI Clearance;
6. Ombudsman clearance for those already or have been in the government services;
7. Certificates of no pending administrative case from the Civil Service Commission Regional Office and present employers;
8. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination conducted by government physician or any accredited institutions;
9. Medical Certificate from government physician; and
10. Letter authorizing the Search Committee to validate submitted documents

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents in a sealed envelope. Original documents must also be submitted in a separate envelope for authentication of duplicate. All documents must be submitted on or before February 20, 2007 to:

The Search Committee for the CLSU Presidency
c/o Prof. Edgardo C. Ibañez
University and Board Secretary
Central Luzon State University
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija 3120

PAGCOR
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 01-01-2007 TAG

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service – Casino Filipino-Tagaytay
Required Personnel: 49 janitors

Casino Filipino-Tagaytay (Main)	: 40 janitors
Slot Machine VIP Club San Pedro	5 janitors
Slot Machine VIP Club Bacoor	4 janitors

Approved Budget : Eleven Million Nine Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five & 60/100 Pesos (Php 11,947,395.60)

Contract Duration : Two (2) years

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 19, 2007 - February 9, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 30, 2007 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino-Tagaytay

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three & 70/100 Pesos (5,953.70)*. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

(Sgd.) **DELIO N. MAGSUMBOL**
Chairperson, BBAC Tagaytay

(PDI – Jan. 21 & 28, 2007))

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LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Light Transit Authority (LRTA)*, through its *Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC)*, invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid the following contract:

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR LINE 1 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT

LRTA intends to apply the sum of *Four Hundred Seventy Five Million Pesos (Php475,000,000.00)* being the Approved Budget Cost for the Contract (ABC).

LRTA now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOIs)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing of prospective Consultants for the *Consultancy Services for Line 1 North Extension Project.* The *SBAC Secretariat* shall receive LOIs and sealed and duly accomplished Eligibility Documents on *07 February 2007,* Wednesday, not later than 9:00 AM and shall thereafter be publicly opened immediately at Line 2 Cafeteria, Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Eligibility documents may be obtained from the SBAC Secretariat at Admin Bldg., LRTA Compd., Pasay City on *January 29 to February 06, 2007* during regular office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00).*

The *SBAC* shall draw the short list of bidders from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of *R.A. 9184* and its *Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A).* Bid documents may be obtained from the SBAC Secretariat on **February 12 - 15, 2007**, during regular office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00).*

For purposes of clarifying issues, a *pre-bid conference* will be held on *16 February 2007*, Friday, 10:00 AM at Line 2 Cafeteria LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City.

The *SBAC Secretariat* shall receive sealed bids not later than *23 March 2007,* Friday, 9:00 AM and shall thereafter be publicly opened immediately at Line 2 Cafeteria, Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City.

Eligibility Documents and Bids shall not be received without the presence of the bidder of its duly authorized representative.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the **LRTA.**

(Sgd.) **Chairman**
Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC)

Address
Administration Bldg., LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, M.M., Republic of the Philippines
FAX 831-6449 • Telex 64614 LRT PN • Phones: 832-3141 to 60 / 832-0423 / 832-0432 / 831-4781 / 831-5707 / 833-2466

(PDI – Jan 21 & 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Aklan
Municipality of Libacao

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: January 21, 2007
Contract ID No.: SP-115-IN-01
World Bank Loan No: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the *Construction of River Protection Revetment Wall Resting on Cut-Off Wall.* Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The *Municipality of Libacao, Aklan* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the *Construction of 1,280 L.M. River Protection Revetment Wall Resting on Cut-Off Wall*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting *January 22, 2007* at the *BAC Secretariat, MPDC Office, Municipal Hall, Libacao, Aklan* upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Seven Thousand Pesos only (Php 7,000.00)* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90) days* after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of *One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00)* in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the *BAC Secretariat, Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Libacao, Aklan on or before 10:00 A.M. of February 20, 2007* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualifiction stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The *Estimated Project Cost* for the subproject is *Php 40,502,836.01.*
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at *10:00A.M. on February 6, 2007 at the SB Session Hall, Libacao Municipal Hall, Libacao, Aklan*

(Sgd.) **ALEX E. DIONELA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 21, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
OFFICE OF BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Committee (BAC), invites the following:

FOR CIVIL WORKS

A. Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name/Reference	Location	ABC	Bidding Fee
• Concreting of various Provincial and Barangay Road (6 projects)	Province wide	P11,794,400.00 *Total ABC for 6 projects*	P2,000.00/project
• Construction of various Concrete Bridges (3 projects)	Province wide	P11,160,924.55 *Total ABC for the 3 projects*	P3,750.00/project
• Construction of various School Buildings and Repair/Renovation of Isabela Museum and Library (13 projects)	Province wide	P9,200,900.00 *Total ABC for the 13 projects*	P1,000.00/project
• Construction of Ramp for Provincial Capitol Building	Provincial Capitol	P1,500,000.00	P1,500.00/project
• Other Public Structure	Province wide	P2,537,775.45	P2,500.00/project

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for eligibility	January 24, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Office, Capitol Building, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	January 26, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat Office
3. Receipt of Eligbility requirements	January 30, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat Office
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	February 1, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat Office
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 2, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat Office
6. Pre-Bid Conference	February 5, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Mini Conference Hall, Governors Office, Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	February 16, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Mini Conference Hall, Governors Office, Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** to the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

FOR GOODS

B. Distributors, wholesalers and/or suppliers in the *pre-eligibility activity and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of the following:*

Name/Reference	*ABC*	*BIDDING FEE*
01-Vegetable Seeds	*P 306,000.00*	*P 500.00*
02-Sprinklers	*P5,000,000.00*	*P5,000.00*
03-Rescue Boat	*P 500,000.00*	*P 500.00*

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
Availability of Bid Documents	February 5, 2007 at the BAC Secretariat Office Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
Pre-Bid Conference	February 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Mini Conf. Hall, Governor's Office, Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
Deadline of Submission of Bids	February 19, 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the Mini Conference Hall, Governor's Office, Capitol Bldg., Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Complete set of bid proposals/forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat's Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee specified above at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous. The Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever in compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, neither does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MA. THERESA-ARANETA FLORES**
BAC-Chairperson

(PDI – Jan. 21, 2007)

FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
Fostering Partnerships for the Environment

The Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), is inviting interested groups to engage in Rapid Site Assessments (RSAs) to collect and/or update baseline information and analyze the biological diversity, socio-cultural, economic and geo-political profile of thirteen (13) clustered areas.

Cluster areas requiring profiles are portions of the following:

Mindanao

1. Mt. Matutum and Ligawasan Marsh
2. Pulangi Watershed and Arakan
3. Lake Mainit
4. Mt. Malindang

Visayas

1. Guiuan
2. Paranas
3. North West Panay
4. North Negros Forest and Mt. Talinis-Twin Lakes

Luzon

1. Abra and Kalinga
2. Palawan
3. Mt. Banahaw, Biak na Bato and Mt. Bulusan
4. Zambales
5. Bolos Point Cagayan

Interested groups must meet the following criteria:

1. From the academe, a research institution or a non-government organization and with juridical personality and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
2. Have interdisciplinary expertise and with at least three.(3) years experience of conducting research in the areas required above
3. Be located within or near the site/area and/or have an existing partnership with a local institution

and must show proof of the above and submit the following:

1. Name of Team Leader and/or Person to Contact
2. Name of Local Partner in Site of Interest, if applicable
3. Name/s of Potential Team Members/Researchers
4. Area/s of Expertise of Major Team Members/Researchers
5. Curriculum Vitaé of Major Researchers
6. List of past researchers
7. List of past partners
8. List of current Board Officers

The above information should be submitted on or before 5 February 2007 to:

The Executive Director
Foundation for the Philippine Environment
# 77 Matahimik Street, Teachers' Village West,
Diliman 1101, Quezon City
fpersa@fpe.ph

(PDI – January 14 & 21, 2007)

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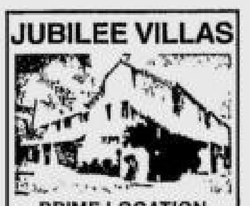

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562 SQM W/ TCT BNANGONAN 8435555/09178986809

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LOT

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•Quezon Ave Showroom Prime Corner Lot P50m
•Malarayat Fairway Lot Real Bargain @ 2.5t/sqm
•Forbes/Dasma/Urda/Etc "PRIME CONDO Sale/Rent"
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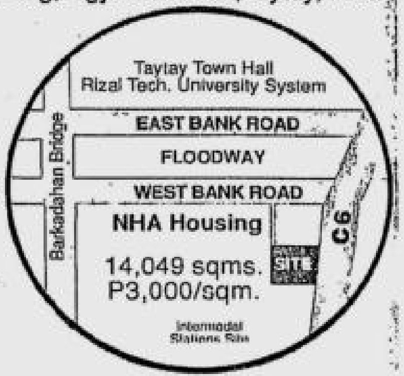

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966530/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE 3026893 STUDY NOW PAY LATER 09177924104 / 09228148322

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg. dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on Jan. 27, 2007 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up to August 2006 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-Jan. 21, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estae of late ALEJANDRO B. BERNATE, JR. was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 082 Page 17 Book III Series 2007 before Notary Public Donata C. Manguiat of Quezon City.
(PDI-Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUSTO D. TAN was extrajudicially settled among the heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. 300; Page. 61; Book VI Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Von P. Sto. Domingo of Marikina City
(PDI - Jan. 14, 21 & 28,2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE HUDSON CHUA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIR AS PER DOC. # 210; PAGE # 42; BOOK # V; SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. RICARDO NERI OF MANILA CITY
+PDI-JAN. 14, 21 & 28, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VALENTIN ESTEBAN HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC# 489; PAGE#98; BOOK# VII; SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. MOISES de CASTRO OF BACOOR CAVITE
PDI-JAN. 21, 28 & FEB. 4, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TOMAS O. DEL CASTILLO, JR. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. No. 337; Page No. 93; Book No. III; Series of 2006 before Notary Public Fortunato C. Pagdanganan.
(Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FLORENCIA PEJI-PANGANIBAN was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 16, Page No. 4, Book No. III, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Tito S. Fajardo of Pasig City.
(January 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

Take notice that the estate of the late NORMA O. GUTIERREZ has been settled by the heirs pursuant to an extrajudicial settlement of estate with Quitclaim being Doc#167 Page#29 Book#XXXIX Series of 2001 of Atty. Rolando D. Mendoza.
(PDI-Jan. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CESAR G. LEUTERIO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#133 Page#28 Book#26 Series of 2006 of Notary Public Ramon U. De Guzman of Quezon City, Metro Manila.
(PDI-Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT STOCK CERT. NO. 50872 WAS DECLARED LOST UNDER THE NAME OF MYRA S. SEVILLA. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED, NEW CERT. WILL BE ISSUED.
(JAN. 7, 14 & 21, 2007)

Notice to the Public
Notice is hereby given to the public that Ms. Yang, Ga Young residing at Milo's Compound Camp 7 Baguio City had lost her Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR) with No:E295146
(PDI-Jan. 21 & 28, 2007)

PERSONAL

ASK ST. CLAIRE 3 WISHES. 1 Business 2 Impossible. Say 8 Hail Marys for 9 days with lightened candle. Pray wether you believe or not, publish on 9th day. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored & glorified today and everyday. Request will be granted no matter how impossible it seems. St. Claire, St. Jude, St. Therese, Infant of Prague, St. Ann, St. Joseph pray for us. (Y.B.)

Dear Holy Spirit Thank You from Gemma P. Santos

Dear Holy Spirit Thank You from Gemma P. Santos

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Wanted Independent Bus. Associate willing to work 5 hours/wk. for an Int'l. Co. Limited Slots Avail. 09178101851 8531008

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

(CCPBAC-2007-002)
Hiring of Services of a Financial Advisor
for the development of the CCP Real Property

1. The Cultural Center of the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), intends to procure the services of a Financial Advisor ("FA") for the development of the CCP Real Property.

2. CCP now calls for the submission of Letter of Intents ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Financial Advisory Services. Interested FAs must submit their LOIs on January 26, 2007 from 9:00am to 4:00pm, by hand, and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom for a minimal fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00).

3. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the Opening of Eligibility Documents on February 09, 2007; 1:30pm at the CCP Boardroom, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

4. The CCPBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intent and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The criteria and rating system for short listing are

5. In accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 ("RA 9184"), bidding for the hiring of an FA will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the CCP. The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The CCPBAC shall evaluate bids using the *Quality-Cost Based Evaluation procedure.*

6. The eligibility and short listing requirements and the other bidding documents may be obtained from CCPBAC at the address given below from Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:00am to 4:00pm. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed FAs shall be on February 28, 2007; 1:30pm.

7. The CCP / CCPBAC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, to declare the bidding a failure, to annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Fontinilla
4/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd) EVA MARI G. SALVADOR
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Jan. 14 & 21, 2007)

PPS Turns 60

To mark its 60th anniversary this 2007, the Philippine Pediatric Society has lined up several activities to promote the theme, "Children and their Environment". The PPS will kick-off its Diamond Jubilee celebration with a nationwide tree-planting activity by pediatricians and an on-site art contest for school children at the La Mesa Eco Park on January 23. Scientific sessions, media forums and community-based lectures will be conducted throughout the year to promote awareness and protect our children against environmental threats in the following aspects: the physical, media, school and home environments.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Experience not required.
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SECRETARY 0917-5332324

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Please text or call 09152148863 / 09178133021 for interview appointment

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AN APOLOGY TO THE PUBLIC AND KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V. FOR SELLING COUNTERFEIT LIGHTING PRODUCTS

TOMAS ELECTRICAL SUPPLY CORPORATION ("TOMAS ELECTRICAL"), with business address at 142 Lizada St., Davao City, hereby tenders its apology to the Public and KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V. ("Philips"), the registered owner of the mark **PHILIPS, PHILIPS SHIELD EMBLEM** and **HAND LOGO**, for selling counterfeit lighting products bearing unauthorized reproduction of the said marks, which is an act of infringement in violation of the Philips' trademark rights over the same, resulting in damage and injury to the welfare and interest of the public as a consumer. The trademarks appear as follows:

PHILIPS

PHILIPS

TOMAS ELECTRICAL acknowledges that it has contravened the Intellectual Property Code (Republic Act No. 8293), under which Philips has secured the registration of the marks, and which mandates that acts of infringement, including unfair competition, is punishable by imprisonment ranging from 2 to 5 years and fine ranging from P50,000 to P200,000.

With this apology, TOMAS ELECTRICAL commits to the Public and Philips that it will not anymore engage in acts of infringement and/or unfair competition with respect to Philip's trademarks, by not selling or distributing counterfeit lighting products bearing the said marks. Tomas Electrical also thanks Philips for giving it the opportunity to make this apology and to reform.

ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGY

KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V., accepts the apology. As the owner-registrant of the above trademarks, it will not hesitate to prosecute any person found manufacturing, selling and/or distributing OR offering to manufacture, sell and/or distribute products that falsely bear its trademarks or otherwise infringe its intellectual property rights.

Further information relating to our intellectual property rights may be obtained from our legal counsel in the Philippines, namely:

FEDERIS & ASSOCIATES Law Offices
Suite 2005, 88 Corporate Center 141 Valero corner
Sedeño Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 889-6197/889-6198
Facsimile: 889-6132

(PDI - Jan. 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
BICOL UNIVERSITY
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

As per authority granted by the Office of the President, Malacañang dated December 22, 2006, the Bicol University, Legazpi City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites supplier/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: **Supply and Delivery of One (1) unit Brand New School Bus**
Approved Budget for the Contract: **Six Million Pesos (Php6,000,000.00)**
Delivery Period: **Two (2) weeks upon receipt of Purchase Order (PO)**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 21, 2007 to January 27, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 29, 2007, 9:00 AM, BUGASS Conference Room, BU Main Campus, Legazpi City
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	February 12, 2007, 9:00 AM BUGASS Conference Room, BU Main Campus, Legazpi City
4. Bid Evaluation	February 12, 2007
5. Post-qualification	February 13, 2007
6. Notice of Award	February 14, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Six Thousand Pesos Only (P6,000.00)** to the Cashier's Office Bicol University General Administration, in accordance with the revised fees of the BAC.

The Bicol University assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved:

(Sgd.) **Dr. LUIS O. AMANO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Jan. 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Malaybalay City
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO. 300-07-001

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon with office address at Capitol Compound, City of Malaybalay, Bukidnon invites interested eligible Construction Firms and to those who submit Application for Eligibility and subsequently to bid if eligible.

Name of Project : Construction, Extension and Rehabilitation of Kibawe Provincial Hospital
Location : Kibawe, Bukidnon
Project Duration : 300 Calendar Days
Approved Budget for the Contract: P27,517,114.71
Brief Description : Construction, Extension and Rehabilitation of Kibawe Provincial Hospital as per approved Program of Works Plans and Specifications.
Source of Funding : General Funds

Activity	Dates	Place
Posting of IAEB at Provincial Website, Phil GEPS and conspicuous places/ Issuance of Eligibility Statement Form	Jan. 19 - 25, 2007	BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Malaybalay City
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Statement Form	Feb. 1, 2007	-do-
Issuance of Notice of Eligibility	Feb. 7, 2007	
Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 8, 2007	-do-
Pre-bid Conference	Feb. 14, 2007 - 2:00 pm	-do-
Submission and Opening of bids	Feb. 28, 2007 - 2:00 pm	-do-

Prospective bidders should posses a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract with a value of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) and have **KEY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT available for the prosecution of the contract and must be registered in the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC)**. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

A complete set of eligibility requirements and bid documents may be obtained from BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City upon payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 for each set to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer.

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid thereto and award the contract to any bidder, whose proposal as determined by the BAC, is the advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Provincial Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Jan. 21 & 23, 2007)

PAGCOR
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 01-08-2007 HER

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service — Casino Filipino – Heritage
Required Personnel: 88 janitors
Approved Budget :Twenty Nine Million Eight Hundred Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Ninety Four & 24/100 Pesos (Php 29,863,194.24)
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 19, 2007 - February 9, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	January 29, 2007 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	February 12, 2007 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Fourteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty One & 60/100 Pesos (Php 14,931.60)*. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Heritage.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Casino Filipino-Heritage

(Sgd.) CESAR PASCUAL
Chairperson, BBAC Heritage

(PDI – Jan. 21 & 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Cotabato
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project : *Land Development for the Site for the Proposed Commercial Center*
Location : *Malagapas, Rosary Heights, #10, Cotabato City*
Appropriation/Approved Budget for the Contract: *Php 6,250,000.00*
Source of Fund: *Land Bank Loan*
Project Duration: *30 Calendar Days*

Item No.	*Description*	*Quantity*	*Scope of Work*
1	Item 104 (Dimapatoy Source)	10,000 cu.m.	Quarrying, delivery, spreading and compaction at the project site at the project site at Malagapas, RH #10, this city
2	Item 200 (River Mix-Dimapatoy)	2,000 cu.m.	Quarrying, spreading and compaction (atop Item. 104) at the project site at Malagapas, RH #10 this city

The conduct of bid for this project, particularly criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Interested bidders shall strictly follow the schedule of bids as follows:

Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent:
January 29, 2007, 10:00 am at the Office on General Services, Cotabato City

Eligibility check for interested bidders:
February 7, 2007, 10:00 am at the Office on General Services, Cotabato City

Opening Bids/Submission of Bids:
February 19, 2007, 10:00 am at the Office on General Services, Cotabato City

A non-refundable bidder's fee of Php 3,125.00 will be collected by the City Government of Cotabato from each interested bidder.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any requried formalities thereon and disregard any bids to the advantage of the City Government. Bid documents may be secured from the Office on General Services anytime during office hours.

(Sgd.) MACARTHUR M. GUIAMELON
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 21, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ALLAN MALLARI DE LEON
Criminal Case
No. Q-06-139326

RODOLFO DAYUNDON JR.
Criminal Case
No. 22592

ANA LYDIA TERRANO GADIAN
Criminal Case
No. C-129-06-2001

QUALIFIED THEFT

Please be informed that a warrant of arrest has been issued against these persons.

For any informations on their whereabouts, please call

897-7806 / 896-8325 / 897-7803

A reward shall be given to anyone who can provide valuable information leading to their arrest.

REWARD MONEY
Php 50,000 each

(PDI – Jan. 15, 21 & 29, 2007)

WANTED

- ELECTRICIANS: 150 prsn
- ELECT'L ENGRS: 3 yrs up
- Fire Alarm Engrs: 3 yrs up
- AutoCAD ENGRS: 3 yrs up

Handcarry bio-data and have interview ASAP at:
SOOWAN Elec. Corp.
Unit B, 10th Floor
Aurora Milestone Bldg.
1045 Aurora Blvd., Q.C
in front of PSBA & near
Katipunan LRT Stn.
Tel. 421-1024 – WENNY
421-1711 – MARIO
Fax 421-10-25

IMMIGRATION AUSTRALIA

ELPIDIO JNR. BAUTISTA
Registered Migration Agent-MARN: 0002606

Free Consultation:
Contact Details:

Australia	Philippines
ELPIDIO BAUTISTA, JR.	LAW OFFICE OF:
(Immigration Consultant)	Elpidio R. Bautista, Jr.
26 Spitz Ave. Newington NSW	Filinvest-1, Batasan Hills
2127 Australia	Quezon City, M.M. 1126
Telefax (612)-9737 9506	PHILIPPINES
Mobile: 0401 465494	Tel/Fax (632) 9314046
Email: ejbautista@tpg.com.au	(632) 9510180

CONGRATULATIONS

Nicole D. Gonio, a PLM graduate for passing the Nurse Licensure Exam given on December 2006.

Greetings from proud parents Dad Ed, Mom Tess, relatives and friends.

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES

722-1144
722-1155

FONTERRA BRANDS PHILS., INC.
Tel. 688-1696 / 688-1687

FOR AUCTION

Company Cars (CASA Maintained)
Refrigerated Vans
(75% of FMV)

Please Look for JILL DAVE at the abovementioned Tel. numbers for details. Closing date until February 05, 2007.

ST. PETER LIFE PLAN CELEBRATES 35TH YEAR

St. Peter Life Plan Inc., the leading Pre-need DeathCare Memorial Plan Provider, recently celebrated its 36th year in public service at the Bellevue Hotel Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The event highlighted their National Convention and Awards Night and bannered the annual Theme, "Panatang St. Peterian –Kahusayan, Kaunlaran, Kabayanihan! or PSP-3K! The famous business inspirational speaker and Anvil Awardee for Excellence, Francis J. Kong and Ateneo Graduate School of Business' Marketing Guru, Enrique M. Soriano III, inspired and fired-up the participants with words of wisdom and innovative marketing strategies. Shown are Anvil Awardee for Excellence, Francis J. Kong (left) and Marketing Guru, Enrique M. Soriano III (right).

New era in added value foods

COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY OF EFFECTIVE organic selenium supplements in the European Union could open up a new era of added value food products for livestock farmers throughout the region, according to nutrition researcher and consultant Professor Peter Surai.

In his recently published book "Selenium in Nutrition and Health," professor Surai outlines the major human health benefits of improving dietary selenium content and points to a range of animal-derived foods – including eggs, meat, milk and milk products – where opportunities for selenium enrichment are possible.

With applications for organic feed supplements based on selenium yeast currently being assessed by the EU feed additives authorities, he believes primary producers across the livestock sectors could soon have new opportunities to develop higher value custom-produced brands that will meet the growing demand for functional foods.

"There is now widespread recognition of the importance of optimum selenium status in human health, and particularly in relation to the prevention of cancer," he says. "It is also widely known, and specifically in Europe, that diets are often marginal and sometimes deficient in this important trace element.

"The enrichment of staple foods with selenium will I believe, become of increasing interest to the general population, if not governments. There are already a number of success stories outside the EU of selenium-enriched foods, so we know that the process of supplementing livestock and developing commercial products are both practical and economic to achieve. There are twelve poultry companies in Russia producing several million selenium-enriched eggs daily, selenium-enriched pork is now sold in restaurants in Korea, and products such as Selk (selenium-enriched milk) being marketed in Korea."

Professor Surai makes the point that staple foods such as eggs, meat and milk meet the required criteria for effective food supplementation strategies of being consumed regularly by the majority of people in moderate amounts, and being affordable. Selenium enrichment through this route is therefore considered to be safer and more effective than alternative strategies, such as the widespread application of fertilizer on agricultural land for example.

"Organic selenium sources are now approved for human and animal consumption in many parts of the world, including the USA, Japan, Latin America and much of Asia. There is a plethora of evidence showing that the organic sources promote higher levels of selenium in milk, meat and eggs, therefore creating these opportunities for added value products and helping solve problems related to global selenium deficiency.

"Primary producers and food processors across the board within the EU are in the hands of the regulatory authorities in Brussels, as dossiers on organic selenium products are currently being assessed. There is an expectation that decisions will be made in 2006, so it could be sooner rather than later that we see a wide selection of selenium-enriched foods on our shelves."

ATTY. NICANOR YAP SISON

of La Paz, Tarlac, Baguio City
& Sta. Cruz, Zambales

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 12, 2007 at the age of 75
at the SLU Hospital of the Sacred Heart, Baguio City.

He was interred at the family mausoleum
in Sta. Cruz, Zambales on Sunday, January 14, 2007.

His loving wife, **Flora**; children **Drs. Michael & Teresa, Engr. Ramon & Dr. Angeliza, Drs. Noel & Jolly, Attys. Robert & Grace, Attys. Mildo Flor & Clarizza**; sisters **Dr. Patria, Remedios, Adelaida, Iluminada, Teresita**; brothers **Dr. Miguel Jr., Renato, Eduardo** and in-laws express their heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in countless ways condoled with and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

JUDGE ELEUTERIO FILLER GUERRERO

RTC Branch 116, Pasay City

(May 25, 1945 – January 19, 2007)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 61.

His loving wife, **Mutya Yraola Guerrero**
Son – **Delfin Dakila** & wife, **Neriza**
Grandchildren – **Deanne & Nice**
Siblings and in-laws – **Jesus & Mimie Guerrero**
Sebastian Canicula, Jr.
Milagros F. Guerrero
Salvacion & Romeo Arzadon

Together with his relatives & friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Rd., Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City.

Our Dearly Beloved

EDGAR "BOY" INOVEJAS ISIDRO

City Administrative, Calbayog City

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus
and the Blessed Mother on January 16, 2007.

His loving mother **Lucia I. Isidro**; loving sisters & brothers-in-law: **Erlie & Jun Domingo, Emilie & Jun Andrada, Babie & Charlie Spiteri**, and **Eva & Bob Costello;** nephews & nieces: **Alain & Sheela, Patricia, Julie, Bruce & Lynlyn, Lilybelle & Ryan, and Maricel;** grandniece **Wednesday** and grandnephews **Luis & JR;** relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Isidro Residence, Barangay Capoocan, Calbayog City, Samar.**

Interment will be on **Thursday, January 25, 2007** at the **Calbayog Memorial Park**.

"Mommy you will forever
be in our hearts"

ELISA MORENO MOHNANI

(MAMA ELSIE)

Now peacefully rests in the
infinite Grace & Goodness of the Lord
on the 20th day of January 2007 at the age of 74.

A loving mother to her children and grandchildren: **Antonio Haresh, Vindru, Lachmie, Olga, Raj, Mohnie, Sundar, Sundree, Lila/ Kenneth, Kishen, Shamie, Shantie, Mohan**, and **Sunill**; her sister, sisters and brothers-in-law **Trude, Adoracion** and **Fernando, Sion** and **Hermie, Fely** and **Charlie**. We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel Freesia of the Sanctuarium, 739 G. Araneta Avenue cor. Agno Ext'n., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Thank You Message

We, Mariglor Rotaeche-Arnaiz
and the family of the late

TOMAS B. ARNAIZ

January 24, 1939 – November 30, 2006

express our gratitude and appreciation
to all who consoled with us, offered Masses
and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages
of sympathy by overseas phone calls,
visited and kept vigil with us, attended funeral
rites in Cebu and Dumaguete,
and who in many countless ways
helped and comforted us.

Thank you so much.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOAQUIN S. DOMINGO

President, Allkey International Inc.
May 14, 1950 - January 16, 2007

The Domingo family would like to express profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at his untimely demise on January 16, 2007.

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to God in knowing that he touched so many lives and organizations in his concern for others. He will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to his legacy of love.

Our Dearly Beloved

CAPT. JOB G. SORILLA

(November 19, 1952 – January 14, 2007)

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 14, 2007
at the age of 54.

His loving wife **Rhodora Sorilla**; children **Ma. Jelly Ann, Frank Joben, Francisco IV, Job II, Job III, Frank Joseph** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at San Isidro de Labrador, Merry Homes II Subd., Zabarte, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on January 28, 2007 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Baesa, Caloocan City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

RICHARD F. BALDOVINO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 6, 2007

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who offered masses, flowers, donations and spent precious time to condole with us in our hour of bereavement.

DEATH NOTICES

CELESTINA V. MAGTIRA

of Marinduque & Caloocan
Born: April 6, 1916

A loving wife, mother and grandmother
joined her husband on January 17, 2007
after lingering illness at the age of 90.

Her body lies at Acacia Rose Chapel,
Sanctuarium cor. Quezon Ave. and Araneta Ave, Q.C.

Interment today, January 21, 2007
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Himlayang Pilipino,
Tandang Sora, Q.C.

In Loving Memory of

JESUS O. REBUSTILLO

on Legazpi City
on his **9TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
The family requests the pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

JOB *Market*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007
Philippine Copyright 1995

For jobseekers, log on to:
www. jobmarketonline.com

JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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F1

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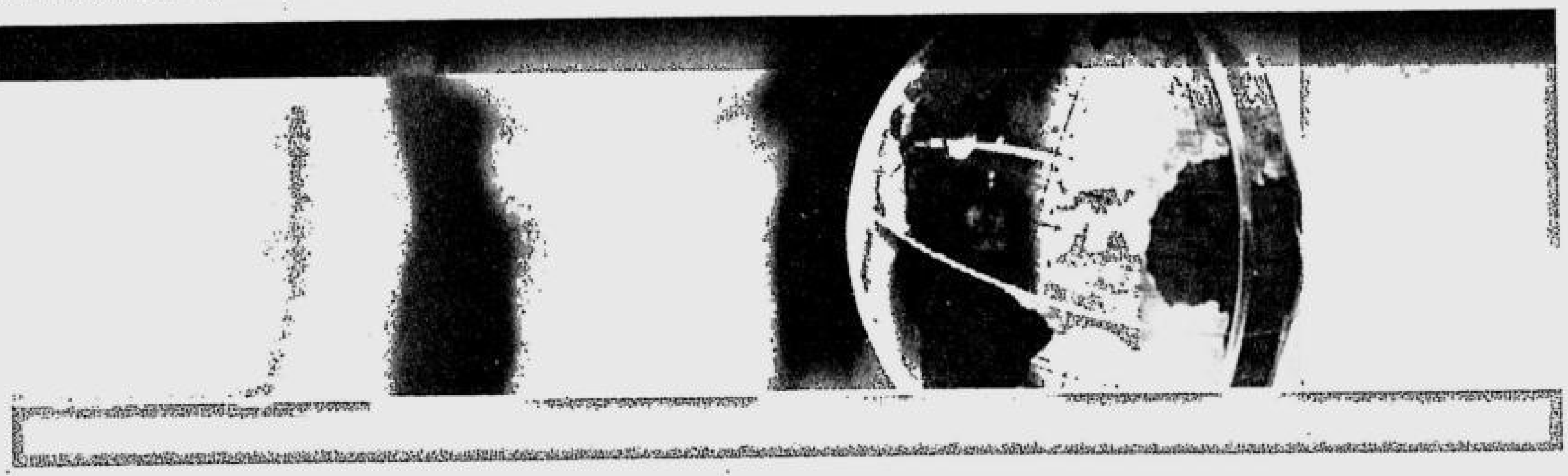
GROUP



NCO is the industry leader in providing clients with successful business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions. Our outsourcing portfolio includes accounts receivable management, customer management services, and back office services for a diversified customer base.

NCO operates a global network of close to 100 operations centers running on a centralized data platform with the flexibility to respond to a rapidly changing marketplace, and to scale operations to meet client specifications. Our clients are empowered to successfully address immediate business needs, while enabling long-term growth across the entire customer lifecycle.

Our international presence is felt across 28 states in the United States, Australia, Canada, Antigua, Barbados, India, Pañama, Philippines, Puerto Rico and United Kingdom.

Do you like a fast-pace, challenging work environment that offers the potential for financial reward and professional growth?

Work for an industry leader!

We are looking for qualified individuals to join our winning team.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS

- Highly refined troubleshooting and problem solving skills. Looks beyond obvious solutions and experiments with different approaches to solving problems.
- Demonstrated expertise with Microsoft Windows operating systems, including Windows file structures and navigation.
- Basic Internet knowledge, including:E-mail (different e-mail clients like Outlook and Outlook express) Understanding of browser versions,features, settings and firewalls.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS

- Highly refined troubleshooting and problem solving skills. Looks beyond obvious solutions and experiments with different approaches to solving problems.
- Demonstrated expertise with Microsoft Windows operating systems, including Windows file structures and navigation.
- Basic Internet knowledge, including: E-mail (different e-mail clients like Outlook and Outlook express).

TELEMARKETING AGENTS

- Strong verbal presentation skills, with pleasant, professional and articulate telephone representation.
- Creative problem-solving skills; ability to quickly assess customer issues.
- Great people skills, including empathy, courtesy and respect
- Driven and Motivated

COLLECTIONS AGENTS

- Apparent motivation, flexibility and dependability
- Ability to work in a flexible and challenging environment.
- Demonstrated attention to detail.
- High ethics, common sense and good overall judgment.

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE AGENTS

- Can type at least 25-30 wpm
- Professional telephone manner and good oral communication skills
- Ability to problem solve and offer alternative solutions appropriately
- Must be a team player but able to work independently

LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT POSITIONS:

WORKFORCE MANAGER
TRAINING AND QUALITY MANAGER
OPERATIONS MANAGER
SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER

TEAM MANAGERS
SALES TEAM MANAGERS
QUALITY COACH
TECHNICAL SUPPORT TRAINERS
INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER
COMPANY NURSE

Visit us now, interviews conducted
Mondays - Fridays
9am to 5pm;
NCO GROUP
RECRUITMENT CENTER
4/F Eugenio Lopez Jr.
Communications Center
ABS-CBN Compound,
Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 981-7564
981-7586
981-7558
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

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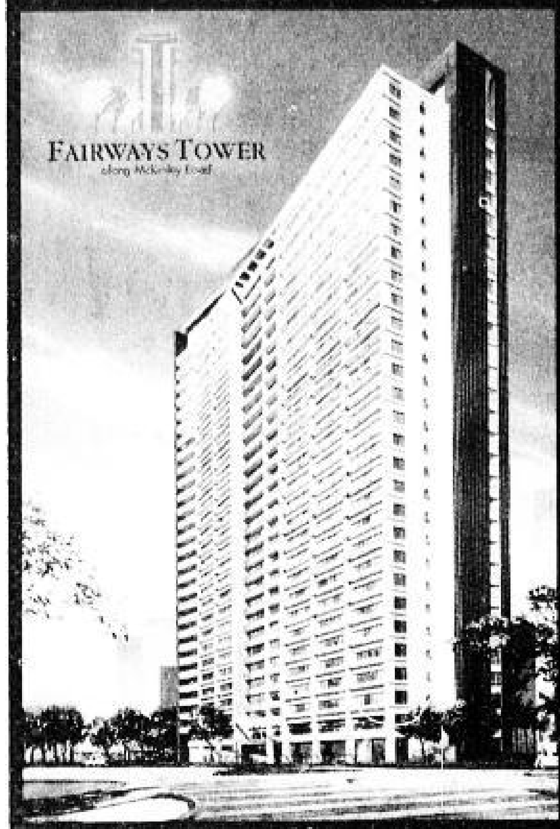
Are you IN or OUT?



metropolitan

ONE
McKINLEY
Place

If you are creative, resourceful, energetic, confident, competitive and want the chance to EARN MILLIONS YEARLY, then join us as a:

PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)

- Not more than 30 years old, male or female
- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school
- Possesses excellent communication skills
- Has pleasing personality and can deal effectively with clients
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Fresh graduates/ entry level applicants are welcome to apply

INCENTIVE : Possible trips in U.S. Europe and Asia for proven closers.

ONE DAY RECRUITMENT for applicants for **PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)** is scheduled on **JANUARY 23, 2007** from 10:00 a.m.. to 4:00 p.m. at the **8/F RFM Corporate Center Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City.**

Interested applicants may contact or text 09178536539.

PROPERTY MANAGER

- Graduate of any four year course
- Has at least five years experience in property management
- Responsible for all property management function
- Implements programs for the maintenance and enhancement of the property
- Implements and supervises all operational functions of the different service contractors
- exceptional interpersonal skills and pleasant disposition to deal effectively with people

BROKER(S)

- Male or female
- With proven track record in real,estate sales
- Will market and sell residential properties
- Possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be flexible, aggressive, enterprising and a team player

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

- Preferably female, not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of any four-year course
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Will provide clerical and admin support to the department head
- Consolidates and prepares departmental reports
- Informs team member of internal and external memorandum
- Adept in computer applications
- Exceptional interpersonal skills

HR ASSISTANT

- Preferably, female
- Graduate of psychology and other related courses
- Will source and screen qualified candidates for vacancies
- Adept in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Excellent communication skills
- Has the ability to handle multi and varied tasks.

Respondents are requested to send their resumes and recent 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Via email : pti.hrd@ philtown.com.ph
Via mail : (please indicate position on the envelop)

PHILTOWN HRD
7/F RFM Corporate Center
Pioneer cor.Sheridan Sts., Mandaluyong

PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties
Beyond condos, Landmarks.

Asia Netcom is a major pan-Asian provider of advanced telecommunications services to multinational enterprises, ISPs and carriers. The company operates a wholly-owned regional submarine cable system and an extended global service platform that power a full portfolio of corporate infrastructure, Internet and next-generation networking solutions. The company has been recognized as being at the forefront of the industry by winning Frost & Sullivan's Data Communications Service Provider of the Year for 2005 and 2006.

Asia Netcom

We are seeking high-caliber individuals equipped with strong telecommunications engineering experience to join our operations team. Qualified candidates should be highly-motivated, able to multi-task, and demonstrate a high level of flexibility and initiative in a fast-paced environment.

Successful candidates will fill positions in the following areas

- **Network Surveillance**
- **Fields Operations**
- **Service Delivery/Provisioning**
- **Technical Project Management**
- **Local Access Management**
- **International Tax Manager**
- **Corporate Accountant**
- **Financial Analyst (Bill Audit Team)**
- **Accounts Payable Officer**

General Job Requirements:

- Degree or Diploma in Engineering or telecommunications-related discipline or relevant experience.
- Minimum 4 -- 6 years experience in the telecommunications industry with at least 3 years working with Subsea / Terrestrial / SDH / DWDM networks.
- Good communication skills (both written and verbal).
- A team player able to work effectively with employees at all levels of the Network Operations team.
- Well-developed analytical and problem-solving skills, with the ability to set priorities, recognize root causes, and recommend solutions.
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Take initiative and work with minimum supervision in a fast-paced environment.

Specific requirements for Network Surveillance positions are:

- Experience and knowledge of working inside Network Operations Centers on a 24/7 shift roster.

Specific requirements for International Tax Manager position

- Relevant professional qualifications with a Bachelor or master degree in accounting or Taxation
- Strong business/commercial sense, cheerful, pleasant, team player, flexible, result oriented. Possess positive attitude with high level of energy, drive, initiative, and enthusiasm. Willing to explore new ideas and opportunities. Able to work independently. Matured with a "can do" attitude.
- Excellent managerial/ leadership, organizational, analytical and verbal/written communication skills. Exhibit ability to listen and communicate effectively.
- The ability to thrive in a fast paced environment
- Good computer skills, proficient in all MS Office applications, hands on experience in SAP will be an advantage.
- Practical working knowledge of tax (preferably both direct and indirect tax), accounting principles and practices as well as related financial areas or equivalent experience.
- At least 10 years of working experience in tax of which 4 years with industry experience and knowledgeable in cross border international tax and transfer pricing regulation.
- Mandarin language proficiency is an added advantage.
- Strategic thinker yet a hands-on person.
- Experience in dealing with CITQ outside of Philippines and working knowledge of tax in the major Asia Pacific countries.

Specific requirements for Corporate Accountant

- Relevant professional qualifications (CA/CPA or equivalent). Strong accounting technical knowledge. Minimum 4 years experience in MNC. Shared Service Centre experience is a plus.
- Experience in co-ordinating audits and handling external auditors.
- Analytical, cheerful, pleasant, team player, flexible, detail and organize, result oriented. Possess positive attitude with high level of energy, initiative, and enthusiasm. Willing to explore new ideas and opportunities. Able to work independently. Matured with a "can do" attitude.
- Good computer skills, proficient in all MS Office applications, hands on experience in SAP will be an advantage.
- Practical working knowledge of tax (preferably both direct and indirect tax).
- At least 5 years of working experience in accounts of which 3 years is with public practice preferably knowledgeable external statutory audit and consolidation for US listed companies.

Specific requirements for Financial Analyst position

- Degree or Diploma in Business, Accounting or Finance related fields.
- 2+ years of working experience in telecommunications or Bill Audit function is preferred.
- Good Verbal and written communications skill in English and Cantonese are essential. Mandarin is an advantage.
- Strong analytical skill and able to work under pressure.
- A good team player yet able to work independently.
- PC literate, Microsoft Office skills is a must.
- Good understanding of financial system. Working knowledge on SAP is highly desirable.
- Immediate availability is preferred.

Specific requirements for Accounts Payable Officer position

- Relevant professional qualifications (CA/CPA or equivalent). Strong accounting technical knowledge. Experience in mergers and acquisition or consolidation will be a plus.
- Experience in co-ordinating audits and handling external auditors.
- Analytical, cheerful, pleasant, team player, flexible, detail and organize, result oriented. Possess positive attitude with high level of energy, initiative, and enthusiasm. Willing to explore new ideas and opportunities. Able to work independently. Matured with a "can do" attitude.
- Good computer skills, proficient in all MS Office applications, hands on experience in SAP will be an advantage.
- Practical working knowledge of tax (preferably both direct and indirect tax).
- At least 5 years of working experience in accounts of which 3 years is with public practice preferably knowledgeable external statutory audit and consolidation for US listed companies.
- Shared Service Centre experience is a must.

Interested applications are invited to forward their resumes to the following email address:
recruitment@asianetcom.com

All information supplied will be treated as strictly confidential for the purpose of selection and recruitment.
Only short-listed candidates will be notified; for candidates not selected, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in a career in Asia Netcom.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

We are inviting highly-dynamic, innovative and driven professionals to join our team!

BRANCH HEADS
(For Metro Manila, Bacolod and Laoag)
- Below 40 years old
- Minimum of 5 years sales experience in a managerial capacity
- Consistent in reaching sales targets (Branch banking experience preferred but not required)
- Client centered and values customer service
- Self-driven and results oriented
- Proven leadership capabilities

BRANCH SERVICE AND CONTROL OFFICERS
(Roving for Metro Manila)
- Below 40 years old
- Extensive experience in cash operations
- Seasoned in supervising Tellers and New Accounts Staff
- Client centered and values customer service
- Highly proficient in MS Office

RECRUITMENT HEAD
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Psychology, HRM, Behavioral Sciences or its equivalent.
- Must have extensive background in recruitment, experience in a banking institution is preferred
- Proficient in MS Office
- Has good leadership abilities, superior communication, analytical and problem- solving skills, and networking ability

MORTGAGE BANKING DIRECT SALES HEAD
- Male or Female
- Between 30 to 35 years old
- College Graduate, preferably a Business Course
- At least 3 years experience as Account Officer for Consumer Loans
- With significant experience in handling a marketing team
- Self starter & highly creative
- With excellent communication and presentation skills

INSURANCE OFFICER
- Graduate of any 4- year business course
- Has at least 3 years experience in an officer capacity in a financial institution
- Has excellent customer service skills, leadership, and decision-making abilities

DISBURSEMENT UNIT HEAD
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- 3 years work related experience
- Must be results- oriented, shows attention to details, analytical and has excellent decision-making and leadership abilities
- Excellent Communication skills

ACCOUNT OFFICER (MORTGAGE BANKING/ COMMERCIAL BANKING/ AUTO LOANS)
- Between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4- year business course
- With at least one (1) year experience as account officer for housing loans/commercial loans/ auto loans)
- Previous experience in handling end-buyer financing for developers an advantage
- Assertive and results-oriented
- With excellent interpersonal, communications and presentation skills

JUNIOR COMPLIANCE OFFICER
- Between 25-29 years old
- A bachelor's degree, preferably in Accounting, Business Administration, Industrial Engineering, Management of Financial Institution.
- 3-5 years experience in various bank operations functions or audit or quality assurance and compliance functions (at least one year of which in supervisory capacity)
- Results oriented, has excellent decision making and leadership abilities

OPERATIONS RISK MANAGER
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- Must have at least 5-10 years experience (in an officer capacity) in bank operations, operational risk management or audit
- Exhibits good leadership abilities and has excellent communication skills
- Must be proficient in MS Office

IT AUDIT OFFICER
- Candidate must be a CPA or must have a degree in Computer Science, Management Information Systems or its equivalent
- With at least 2 years of IT auditing experience including assessing IT risks, analyzing business processes and data in computerized environment and using Computer Assisted Audit or data extraction tools
- Should have strong application and general controls background, and understanding of various computing platforms and technologies system development methodologies and data security
- Must possess excellent communication skills.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS – MARKETING
- Between 28-35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Marketing or Mass Communication
- With at least 2 years experience in product development as a junior officer
- Can conceptualize and implement marketing programs
- Preferably with experience in advertising and market research
- Highly creative and proficient in MS Office
- Excellent presentation skills

WEBSITE AND GRAPHICS DESIGN OFFICER
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Fine Arts, Mass Communication, or IT-Multimedia Design
- At least 1 year experience in actual web and graphic design
- Must be creative and innovative
- Should have excellent communication skills

PROJECT MANAGER – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- Between 25-34 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology and other computer-related courses
- With experience in Data Warehouse Project Development or medium to large scale application development using VB.Net / ASP.Net
- Must be skilled in Oracle Technology, tools such as PL-SQL, SQL Loader, Forms or Microsoft .Net (VB.Net and ASP.Net) Technology
- With experience in project management and leading people

TRAINING OFFICER
- Bachelor's Degree holder
- Minimum of 2 years functioning in the same capacity
- Must have experience in branch banking operations
- Has very good communication and people management skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATES/ TELLERS
- Bachelor's degree holder
- Has good communication skills
- Is customer oriented and with excellent attention to details
- Previous experience not necessary

CORPORATE OFFICE STAFF POSITIONS
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Banking and Finance
- A self- starter, possesses excellent customer service skills and dedication to work
- Has good communication and organizational skills, and possesses a keen attention to details
- Previous experience not necessary

Interested applicants may send their resume
with a 2 " x 2" colored ID picture to **THE HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP**
Recruitment Department, 7/F PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City
Fax: (632)885-8347 • E-mail: recruitment@psbank.com.ph
(use APPLICATION <POSITION DESIRED> as subject line)

Take Your Customer Service Skills to the Next Level...

We are inviting seasoned BPO and call center professionals who are eager and long wanted to utilize their customer service skills and experience in a way that you can :

- break away from the awfully **repetitive** nature of your work
- get further trained toward more **intellectual career** pursuits
- move into **broader** and **higher** functional career paths
- be challenged by new professional and **financial** opportunities
- and above all, be a **better** person/professional than where you are NOW...

Our client is one of the largest integrated energy companies in the world, conducting business in over 180 countries, and engaged in every aspect of the oil and natural gas industry. It is an organization notable for its leading edge global operations, multi-cultural customer base, and empowered workforce. It is a leader in its industry, with a team of high-caliber professionals using state-of-the-art systems and technology.

To be part of this pioneering team, you must have the following:

- *At least 2 solid years of customer management experience from a reputable call center and BPO company*
- *Bachelor's degree, preferably business related course such as Management, Accounting, Economics, Marketing or equivalent*
- *Good skills in communication*
- *Ability to work in a proactive, results-oriented, and customer-focused environment, enjoy working with people with diverse cultural backgrounds, and eager to learn and employ technology of world-class standards*
- *Outstanding skills in leadership, teamwork, and customer engagement*

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[illegible]

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TÜV SÜD Group is a leading technical service company, active in the strategic business segments INDUSTRY, MOBILITY and PEOPLE. Our objectives are reliability, safety and quality as well as environmental protection and cost effectiveness. 10,000 experts generate annual turnover of around EUR 1,000 million. TÜV SÜD Group is represented internationally by more than 130 sites and serves over 5 million customers.

TUV SUD Philippines Inc. urgently needs to fill-up the following vacancies for its Manila Office:

INDUSTRY SERVICE ENGINEER
(Job Code: ISE)

Responsibilities

The successful candidate shall handle technical inspection projects for the Industry Service and will assist in the business development efforts in the Philippines if needed. Responsibilities include but not limited to conducting onsite inspection, preparation of reports thereof and providing technical advice to clients. He will work with the local Business Development personnel during client calls to explain the technical side of the industry service portfolios that TUV offers. Conduct awareness seminars for clients when so needed. Successful candidate shall be assigned at the Manila Office with possible travels needed to other South East Asian countries. This role will report to an Expat.

Qualifications:
Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering (preferred) specializing in power or chemical plant or its equivalent and ASME Authorized Inspector. Minimum of 5 years experience in conducting third party inspection for power and chemical plants, heavy equipment, and other industry related service. Have good knowledge and or experience in stress and strain calculation, material science/analysis, FEA (Finite element analysis), water chemistry and corrosion investigations and assessment (with emphasis on refineries); ISMIST Scope; Non-intrusive Inspection and NDT (Vibration, Thermography, etc); Assessment according to national and international regulations (as per BS 7910, TRD, etc); Analytical and numerical stress and strain calculations; Statistical Evaluations; Monitoring (temperature, displacement, pressure, vibration, strain); oil and lubricant analysis; mechanical testing, power plant maintenance and repair, conducting life assessments and extensions, conducting failure investigation or technical investigation, knowledge in ISO standards (a plus). With effective presentation skills; Able to work effectively with a team; Customer service orientation, effective and reliable team workers, responsible and confident. Computer Literate (MS Office) Must speak and write fluently in English. All industry related experience must be substantiated by references (publication, diploma, certificates, testimonies)

INDUSTRY SERVICE INSPECTOR
(Job Code: ISI)

Responsibilities

The successful candidate shall be responsible for conducting technical, safety and quality inspection to various heavy equipment, using appropriate standards. He will provide support to clients in establishing and monitoring inspection procedures in accordance with the required rules and regulations. He will provide assistance to the development of internal technical and safety procedures for Industry Service Department. He will also provide technical support for Business Development activities within his area of expertise

Qualifications:
Licensed Mechanical Engineer. Minimum of 3 years experience in conducting third party inspection for heavy equipment, and other industry related service. Must have extensive knowledge and experience in conducting safety equipment inspection, testing and certification of: cranes, elevators, gondolas, escalators, conveyors, construction heavy equipments, and lifting gears and accessories. DOLE accredited OSH practitioner. Can work effectively with a team; and with very strong customer service orientation, effective and reliable team worker, responsible and confident. Computer Literate (MS Office). Must speak and write fluently in English. All industry related experience must be substantiated by references (publication, diploma, certificates, testimonies).

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
(Job Code: BDO)

Responsibilities
The successful candidate shall be assigned to provide general support to the Business Development team for any of the following groups: Management Systems, Product Testing and Certification, Akademie. Responsibilities include but not limited to effective sourcing, telemarketing and closing of potential clients to ensure that the projected targets are met; to serve existing customers intensely and with a sales focus, to identify and win over new customers, and to ensure optimal market coverage; to promote new products and to grow repeat sales with the objective of achieving increasing profits and market share

Qualifications:
Degree in Science or Engineering is preferred, with strong inclination to marketing/ business development work; knowledge in ISO standards acquired either through training or on the job; ability to develop a creative and effective business development plan; have a well-honed interpersonal and client-handling skills; can work independently, results driven, and with pleasing personality, effective presentation skills is a must; Positive attitude and team player with strong work ethics ; be able to work effectively with a team of locals and expatriates; computer literate (MS Office); willing to travel.

For Product Testing and Certification, project management and coordination, sales exposure in the electronics sector and experience in testing and certification is a great advantage.

For the Akademie, experience in the IT, training and education sector is a great advantage.

We offer
A competitive remuneration and benefits package; professional growth through constant and comprehensive trainings and travel opportunities. Please send your comprehensive resume/curriculum vitae indicating the earliest commencing date and the job code, by email to recruitment@tuv-sud.com.ph. Please indicate the job code in the subject line of your email. We are looking forward to receive your application.

TÜV SÜD Philippines Inc. • Unit 1808 The Orient Square Building • F. Ortigas Jr., Ortigas Center • Pasig City • 1605 • www.tuv-sud.ph

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

DESK EDITOR
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

REPORTERS
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate major in Journalism or Mass Communications
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Research Skills
- Must have at least 1 year experience in news reporting

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably major in Mass Communication, Journalism
- Knowledge in Pagemaker, Photoshop, or any related pagination or editing software
- Proofreading Skills, Encoding Skills, Scanning Skills, Layouting Skills

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

NETWORK AND SYSTEMS ENGINEER
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Computer Engineering or Electronics and Communications Engineering
- 1 to 2 years experience in Networking and System Administration
- Must have knowledge of Linux, Windows 2000/2003 Server Administration and Development, Citrix Administration, TCP / IP Network, concepts in computer networking, e-mail and internet administration. Database knowledge is a plus

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER
QUALIFICATIONS:
- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have work experience in Powerbuilder, MS SQL 2000, Sybase SQL or other Relational Database Management System. Knowledge in Visual Basic, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting is an advantage.
- Can work with minimal supervision

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
The Power of Knowing

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

is now accepting teacher-applicants for academic year 2007-2008 in the following subject areas:

MATHEMATICS
ENGLISH
SCIENCE
SOCIAL SCIENCE
FILIPINO
VALUES EDUCATION
COMPUTER
MUSIC
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Please submit the following documents to the Office of the School Secretary:
1. Letter of Application addressed to the Principal (Master Teacher Eden G. Tolentino, M.A.)
2. Clear photocopy of transcript of records and professional teacher's license
3. Letter of recommendation from the previous employer

*Applicant should have at least earned some masteral units in his/her field of specialization.

*Contact Information:
University of Santo Tomas High School
Benavides Building
España, Manila 1015
Tel. Nos.: 731-4785 / 406-1611 loc. 8270

1611 USI

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The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of an

HR SUPERVISOR

for its sister company in Cebu City with the following qualifications:

- Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate, preferably female
- Must be a resident of Cebu City or nearby areas
- With at least 5 years experience in entire HR
- Knowledgeable in labor relations
- Preferably with experience in timekeeping and payroll preparation
- Proficient in oral and written communications
- Equipped with the following competencies: Negotiating Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Decision Making, Policies and Procedures, People Management Skills, Leadership Skills
- With basic knowledge of computer operations

Interested applicants should send their application letter and comprehensive resume to:

CEBU DAILY NEWS
Kaohsiung St. Cor. S.Osmeña Road,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City 6000

E-mail: aoasan@fep.ph

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PROD. PLANNER
- with work experience preferably in Garments

DESIGNER/ CREATIVE
- knows Photoshop/ Illustrator
- part-time or full time

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(02) 842-0279 or
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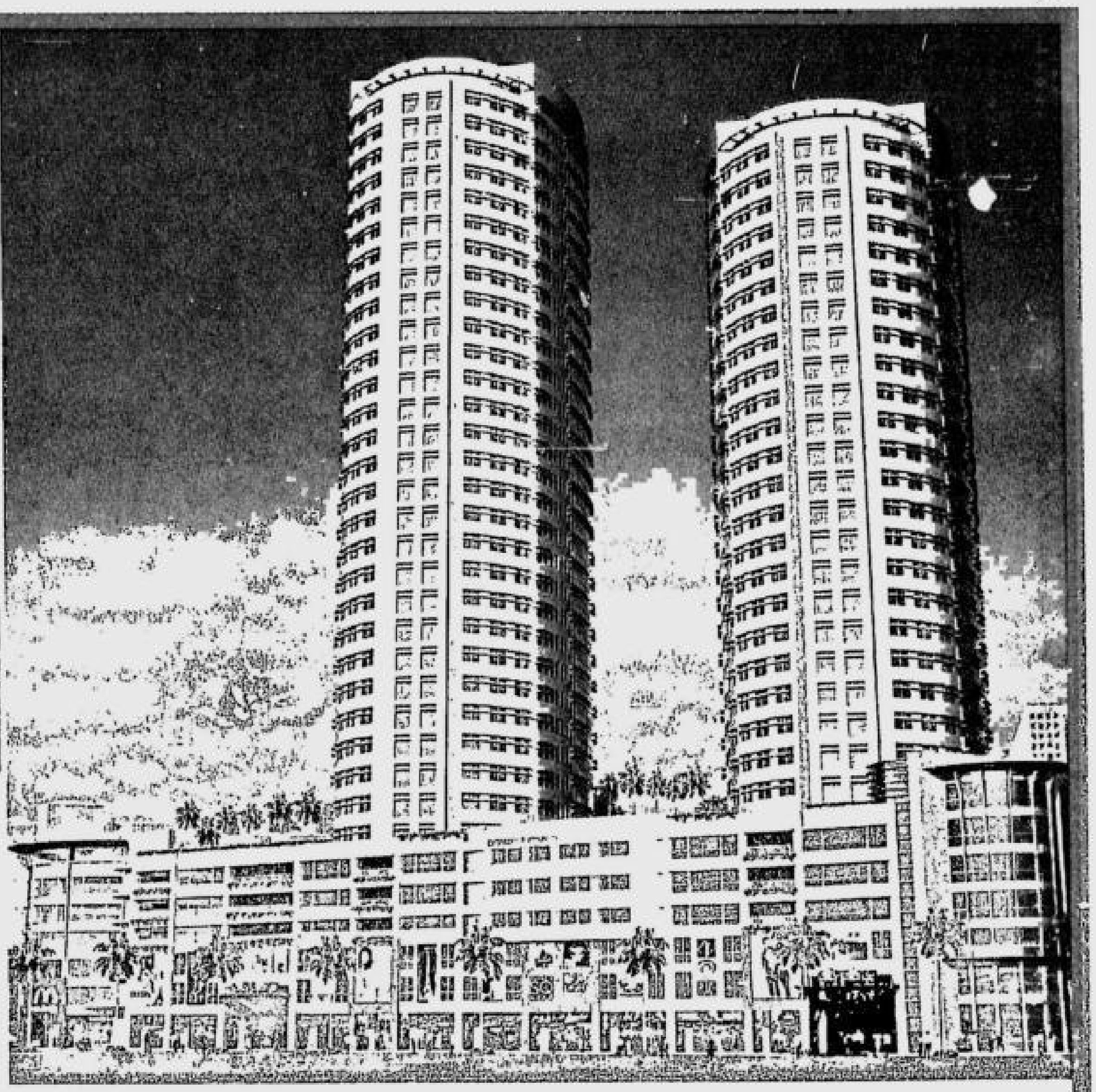
CITYPLACE



Cityplace embodies the best of a live-work-shop-play lifestyle right at the heart of Binondo, Manila. Comprising luxury residential towers, a shopping center, a businessman's hotel and a centerpiece promenade, Cityplace is Manila's largest mixed-use project in the last 25 years.

Megaworld Newport Property Holdings, Inc., the exclusive marketing company for Cityplace, invites qualified applicants for the following key positions:

SALES TEAM LEADERS

- Male/female
- 28 to 38 years old
- With at least 2 years' experience as a Sales Leader in real estate or other related fields
- Has the ability and proven track record to manage a sales team
- Can further develop and grow the business

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

- Male/female
- Not more than 30 years old
- With a college degree from a reputable school
- With pleasing personality and above average communication skills
- Sales experience in the real estate industry a big advantage

MARKETING OFFICER

- Male/female
- 26 to 32 years old
- 3 to 5 years experience in advertising, PR or brand management
- With extensive contacts and network in the industry
- Willing to work long hours and during weekends

DOCUMENTATION OFFICER

- Male/female
- 26 to 32 years old
- With 3 years' experience in documentation processing and customer service
- Proficient in Microsoft Office

TRAINING OFFICER

- Male/female
- 26 to 32 years old
- 3 to 5 years' experience as a senior trainer
- Can handle all traning-related functions of large sales groups
- With high energy and strong motivational skills

Interested applicants should bring a resumé with 2 ID photos and look for:

Ms. Bekkie Benitez or Mr. Dante Robles
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Megaworld Newport Sales Office
World Trade Exchange Bldg.,
215 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila

Or e-mail your resumé to hrad@cityplace.com.ph or call 241-6563 for more information.

Wanted: Self-motivated, Creative, Results-Oriented Team Players

Join the MAGSAYSAY World.

Marketing Manager

Chief marketing/branding strategist for the Company's global manpower services

Group QMR (Quality Management Representative)

Responsible for the continual improvement of the quality management system

HRD Manager

Responsible for talent pipeline development for a global manpower pool

Head – Magsaysay Training

Responsible for global expansion of the Company's training services in maritime, hospitality/culinary arts, travel & tourism, healthcare and languages

Head – Internal Audit

BS Accountancy; preferably a CPA and a Certified Internal Auditor; with 3 or more years managerial experience in Internal Audit

Operations Manager

Responsible for manpower and training services in Healthcare

Port Captain

Responsible for the implementation of the safety management system in owned and managed ships

Cadet Program Manager

Responsible for the Company's talent pipeline for merchant marine officers

Crewing Manager

Responsible for a fleet's rotation program and retention of manpower

Fleet Manager

Responsible for the full range of ship management services for a fleet of ships

Accounting Manager

Responsible for Accounting support to the Transport and Logistics Group

Corporate Planning Analyst

Lady graduate of BS Industrial Engineering or any business course like Economics or Statistics from UP, Ateneo or Dela Salle

Fuel & Chemical Engineer

Young, licensed Mechanical or Chemical Engineer; experienced in analyzing oil consumptions, sounding and its specifications for at least 2 years

Management Trainees

Open to fresh graduates from the top 10% of the class; preferably with degrees in Business Management, Engineering, Behavioral Science, Economics; two years experience and an MBA a plus

Cadet Engineers/ Technical Assistants

Open to fresh Engineering graduates from the top 10% of the class; male, not more than 30 years old; preferably graduate of Mechanical Engineering; preferably board passer

Magsaysay, an award-winning Filipino company with a long and proven track record in the field of human resource and shipping, invites self-motivated, creative, and results-oriented team players to be part of its ongoing global expansion.

Challenging work

Attractive compensation & benefits

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Foreign travel opportunities

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E-mail your resumes at hr_recruitment@magsaysay.com.ph. We will call you next week for your interview schedule.

eon
Join the team*

Our client, a worldclass stakeholder relations firm in the Asia Pacific, is looking for dynamic and results-oriented individuals to assume the position of

Finance officer

Candidates to be considered:

- Align financial activities with the strategic directions of the company.
- Ensure tax and financial reportorial requirements are met on a periodic basis.
- Prepare the annual budget and cascade financial plans to the rest of the organization. Analyze and report on budget performance.
- Monitor compliance to financial policies, systems and controls.
- Ability to defend own forecast and projections.

- 30-45 years old with at least 5 years experience in finance, accounting, taxation and controls
- Accounting graduate and a CPA
- Exposure in advertising/Public Relations firm and/or banking industry is an advantage.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills and proficiency in integrated accounting software

Qualified applicants may send their application letter and comprehensive resume to

Nerissa Mendoza
Senior Director
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Financial Advisors, Inc.
29th floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas,
1226 Makati City
Email: executive.search@ph.pwc.com

About our client

The pioneering stakeholder relations firm in the Philippines. EON's team of 35 deploys a combination of advanced marketing communications, research, specialized stakeholder relations and public affairs tools to help its clients build effective and sustaining relationships with their publics. EON is the Philippine affiliate of Edelman Public Relations Worldwide.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Qualifications:

☐ Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management course
☐ Female, 30-45 years old
☐ At least 5 years work related experience in the over-all Management of a restaurant

KITCHEN SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

☐ Graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management course
☐ Female, 24-35 years old
☐ 3 years work related experience
☐ Knowledgeable in menu planning and cost control

HEAD WAITER

Qualifications:

☐ Preferably graduate of HRM/Business Course
☐ Male, 25-35 years old
☐ 3 years work related experience
☐ Fluent in English Communication/knowledge of other language(s) a major asset

PERSONNEL/PAYROLL CLERK

Qualifications:

☐ Preferably graduate of any Business Course
☐ Female, 25-35 years old
☐ At least 2 years experience in personnel matters and payroll preparation
☐ Computer literate, proficient in oral & written communication

Please email your comprehensive resumé with picture at **harirayahrd@yahoo.com**

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

- Dynamic
- Progressive
- With a keen eye for details
- Experienced in major areas of Human Resource
- Know how in administrative functions is a definite advantage

If you have what it takes to lead a vibrant group of human resource practitioners then this is the chance for you. Take a hold of this exciting opportunity.

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South Superhighway
Parañaque City 1500

MARKETING OFFICER

- College grad., computer literate & good command in English
- 2 yrs. exp. in janitorial & general cleaning services

Submit Resumé w/ ID pictures; NBI, credentials at:

34 E Matalino St., Diliman, Q.C.
Look for Ms. Rose 433-61-60

TSM SHIPPING (PHILS.), INC.

IS IN NEED OF TECHNICAL PURCHASERS :

Possible candidate will be

- A young engineer with few years of experience at sea (preferably bulk carriers) who would like to start new career ashore

OR

- A younger person with fair experience in purchasing / logistics

Candidates must be good in

- English / spoken and written

and they must be

- Proficient in IT technology (MS application) and
- Good communicators

Purchasing requires **dedicated** persons who can **work under pressure** and on tight time schedules

There are four things that candidates will need to learn

1. our system and procedures
2. our proprietary purchasing software (ShipNet and ShipServ)
3. The market (suppliers / forwarders etc) .... and of course
4. Vessels that they will support

Please submit in person your resume with photo together with certificate of employment for possible interview.

Mr. Ian R. Garcia - Admin./Personnel Manager
ian.garcia@tsmphil.com.ph
TSM HOUSE 1747 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City
Tel. No. 860-7575

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 931-8101 to 07

NATIONAL SECTOR SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT REFORM PROJECT (NSSSWDR)

The DSWD recently received a grant from World Bank - Policy and Human Resource Development (PHRD) through the project entitled "National Sector Support for Social Welfare and Development Reform" to support its efforts to undertake institutional reforms to make it better fit to lead and steer the development and implementation of social sector programs. The project aims to reduce the vulnerability and increase the capacities of the poorest and most marginalized groups through improved basic social welfare and social protection services.

Towards the above, the Project will engage the services of the following:

SOCIAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) PhD in social science; (b) Prior experience in preparing comprehensive situational reports of not less than five years; (c) Prior experience in developing programs and projects for the social sector (seven years); and (d) Prior experience in conduct of policy and program review / assessment (five years)

Major Deliverables:

- Reports on the inventory and gap analysis of existing social welfare and protection policies and devolved programs.
- SWD Situation Reports
- Template / Manual for the preparation of SWD Situation Report

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 10 months.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Master's degree in public finance or related field; and (b) Experience in the preparation of medium term public expenditure plans (3 years)

Major Deliverables:

- Report on the Analysis of spending pattern and resource mobilization schemes for SWD programs of the DSWD, LGUs, NGAs and the private sector.
- Framework, tools and plan.
- Medium Term Expenditure Plan and guide for assessing social welfare and protection spending and for formulating MTEP.

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 8 months.

POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAM and SOCIAL PROTECTION TARGETING SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Master's degree in economics, social science, statistics or related field, PhD preferred; (b) Good knowledge of econometrics, statistics, statistical programs (Stata, SPSS, etc); (c) Experience in targeting or conducting studies in targeting of poverty / social protection programs; and (d) Good working knowledge of the CBMS

Major Deliverables:

- Intermediary report on Conditional Cash Transfer targeting mechanism
- Results of the rapid evaluation of current targeting mechanisms observed by DSWD
- Proposed targeting mechanisms (uniform for all or by program type if necessary).

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 11 months.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Degree in social sciences, economics, statistics or related field, preferably with a PhD; (b) Experience in undertaking M & E for social projects (5 years); (c) Experience in the conduct of impact evaluation studies (5 years) Experience in the conduct of baseline studies (3 years)

Major Deliverables:

- Intermediary report on designing of M & E for Conditional Cash Transfer (due 8 weeks after signing the contract), to include, i) review of impact in CCT programs, ii) assessment of HH surveys for impact evaluation of pilot CCT program, iii) general design, timing and approximate costs and iv) propose a strategy for doing such evaluation.
- M & E designing for CCT (due 4 weeks after the intermediary report)
- Manual for M & E for the CCT Pilot
- Six Impact Evaluation Study Reports
- Manual on Monitoring and Evaluation and for the conduct of impact evaluation studies

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 13 months, in two phases of 6 months, each phase over a period of 18 months.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MIS)

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Graduate (preferably at Masters' level) of MIS, computer science / engineering or data management or related field; (b) Experience in designing and installing MIS systems in an organization with the same size as DSWD (3 years); and (c) Experience in web-based systems and ample knowledge of different platforms of database management with strong leadership and communication skills (3 years)

Major Deliverables:

- Intermediary report on Conditional Cash Transfer MIS (due 8 weeks after signing the contract)
- Final report on CCT MIS (due 4 weeks after the intermediary report)
- Systems Analysis Report covering the evaluation of existing reporting systems in DSWD.
- MIS Manual and proposed improvements in the website and installation of approved proposals.

Duration of the consultancy is estimated to be 8 months.

SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Master's Degree in social sciences or equivalent experience in vulnerability risk / impact assessment of development projects as well as social safeguards; (b) Experience in conduct of risk assessments and programming for the social sectors affected by development (at least 5 years); and (c) Sufficient knowledge / background of the social welfare and development situation in the Philippines

Major Deliverables:

- Report on the current and proposed role of DSWD in the conduct of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
- Report on the findings and recommendations based on the consultations with field implementers and vulnerable groups on programs that would mitigate the risks and adverse social impact of development projects.
- Manual on Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Social Impact assessment of development projects and Social Safeguards Planning

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 6 months.

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Master's degree in social sciences or related field; (b) Prior experience in business process flow and improvements or ISO compliance of not less than five (5) years

Major Deliverables:

- Review of current status and performance of the Standards Bureau identifying gaps and recommending improvements
- Studies on current standards for the management and operation of social welfare and development programs and services
- Process Improvement Plans
- Manual on Standards Development and Quality Assurance

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 5 months.

FACILITY FUNCTIONAL PLANNER

Qualification Requirements:

(a) At least 5 years experience in social services facility management; and (b) Relevant degree in facility management or related fields

Major Deliverables:

- Report on the current status of operations and funding of different social welfare and protection facilities operated by DSWD and by private institutions
- Proposed Facilities and Services Improvement Plan.
- Proposed Management and Financing arrangements.
- Framework/guide in setting of standards and preparation of improvement plan.

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 2 months.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements for the Institutional Development Specialist

(a) Master's degree in social science or related field of public administration, organizational development or behavioral science; and (b) At least 7 years experience in institutional mapping, gap analysis, and institutional capacity development

Major Deliverables:

- Proposed institutional arrangement for the Conditional Cash Transfer program, including the organizational chart, relationship map and roles.
- Final institutional arrangement to be developed for the piloting of the CCT
- Report on the results of the review of DSWD's operationalization of its Corporate Plan.
- Institutional Capacity Building Program Design

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 9 months.

TRAINING SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Experience in designing and implementing training programs for the public and private sector, national and local levels (12 years); (b) Sufficient familiarity with the social welfare and development sector; and (c) Ability to communicate effectively with trainors and senior officials.

Major Deliverables:

- Report on the results of the review of current Training Programs of DSWD
- Training Needs Assessment Instrument
- Comprehensive Training Program Design and curriculum of the different individual training programs
- Curriculum design for continuing education of DSWD staff.

Duration of the consultancy at 10 months spread over an 18-month period.

SOCIAL MARKETING SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

At least ten (10) years in the practice of social marketing / satisfaction surveys, with at least 3 years in the design and implementation of surveys and social marketing for public sector programs / projects

Major Deliverables:

- Report on the results of the Review of the Social Marketing Plan.
- Recommendations for improving the Social Marketing Plan, as well as recommendations on goods to be procured to effectively implement the Plan
- Framework or guide in the preparation of Social Marketing Plan.

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 6 months.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Graduate of Health or other Social Sciences, preferably with a Master's Degree in Public Health or higher; and (b) Minimum of four years experience in the design and implementation of health and nutrition programs for poor and vulnerable populations in the country

Major Deliverables:

- Inception Report and Detailed Work Plan due for submission within three days after signing the contract.
- Interim Report (due 8 weeks after signing the contract) which would covering Health and Nutrition components;
- Final Report (due within four weeks after the Interim Report), which covers the same areas covered in the previous report, and incorporating comments and suggestions of the Project Team Leader, International CCT Consultant, officials of Department of Health, Nutrition Council and other offices concerned.

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 3 months.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Graduate of Education or other Social Sciences, preferably with a Master's Degree or higher (b) With excellent knowledge of the functioning of the education system in the country; and (c) Minimum of four years experience in the education sector with excellent team building and coordination skills.

Major Deliverables:

- Inception Report and Detailed Work Plan due for submission within three days after signing the contract.
- Interim Report (due 6 weeks after signing the contract) which would cover the following:
    - i) review and assessment of main education issues faced by poor families and the contribution that a CCT program can make in addressing those issues,
    - ii) proposal for the education conditions to be included in the CCT program, detailing the grades and the possible benefit levels of the education component, and
    - iii) an outline for implementation of the education component of the CCT pilot program.
- Final Report (due 6 weeks after the Interim Report), which covers the same four areas covered in the previous report, and incorporating comments and suggestions of the Project Team Leader, International CCT Consultant, officials of DepEd and other offices concerned.

Duration of the consultancy is estimated at 3 months.

FINANCE SPECIALIST

Qualification Requirements:

(a) Graduate of Accounting, Economics, Management or other related field; (b) Minimum of four years experience in the design, implementation or review of financial management system; and (c) Knowledge of fiscal transfer arrangements direct to communities and / or individuals

Major Deliverables:

- Inception Report and Detailed Work Plan due for submission within three days after signing the contract.
- Interim Report (due 6 weeks after signing the contract) which would cover the following:
    - i) Review and assessment of different funds flow mechanisms of different social welfare and social protection programs.
    - ii) Proposed funds flow after consultations with DSWD, Department of Finance, and DBM Officials.
    - iii) Proposed audit arrangement.
- Final Report (due 6 weeks after the Interim Report), which covers the same four areas covered in the previous report, and incorporating comments and suggestions of the Project Team Leader, International CCT Consultant, officals of DSWD, DoF, DBM, Commission on Audit and other offices concerned.

Duration of the Consultancy:

The timeframe to carryout the tasks outlined under the TOR is estimated at 3 months.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Application letter briefly stating how you meet each of the qualification standards (maximum of 2 pages)
2. Latest CV
3. Outputs from previous engagement (at least 2)
4. A list of references (with full contact details) from the last three employers

The detailed Deliverables/Expected Output and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the consultants are available at the DSWD Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (951-7116) upon request and are likewise posted in the PhilGEPS and DSWD websites, **https://www.philgeps.net** and **http://www.dswd.gov.ph.**

Interested applicants must submit all the requirements to: **The Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City** with telephone numbers 931-8101 loc 217/951-7116 or by email to **bacsec@dswd.gov.ph** or **dswdbacsec@yahoo.com** on or before January 24, 2007.

(Sgd.) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

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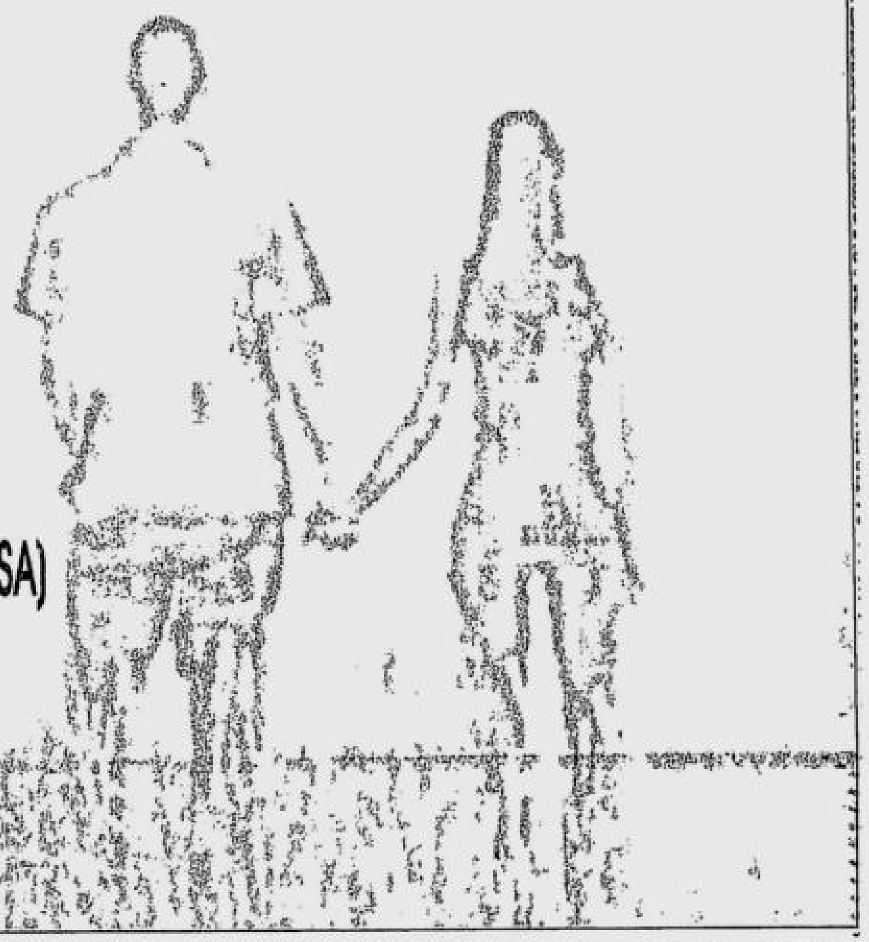

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Telefax: 415-3976
or email your resume to: juleen_jun@yahoo.co.uk

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ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR / CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT - M/F 27 yrs old, w/ managerial experience, must be responsible & hardworking, computer literate
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER – Female at least 2-5 years of Human Resources experience
AUTOCADD OPERATOR – Architecture / Civil Engineering graduate with knowledge in release 14 & latest version of autocadd2006
DIESEL MECHANIC
HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC – Male 20-35 years old with 2-3 years experience
CRANE OPERATOR
BACKHOE OPERATOR – Male 20-35 years old with 5 years experience
I.T. STAFF – Male w/ SQL & oracle knowledge, 2 yrs. experience in troubleshooting, w/ corporate experience in computer shop & w/ knowledge in NT 2000 server & networking is a must

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The **CustomMade Crafts Center (CMCC)**, marketing arm of Non Timber Forest Products –Task Force (NTFP-TF), is a sustainable social enterprise engaging in the local and international marketing of fairly-traded indigenous and rural handicrafts, both traditional and customized to modern functions that feature top quality, top design and value for money.

The CMCC is in need of an ASSISTANT BUSINES MANAGER to oversee and manage the operations and growth of the crafts center.

Qualifications:

- College/University degree in business management or related fields required and/or professional experience in business management, preferably in Crafts and Home/Fashion business.
- At least 3 years work experience in a management level.
- Excellent communications skills both in English and Filipino
- Above average skills in MS Word, Excel, Power point
- Culturally sensitive and results oriented

For a full job description and requirements, please log on to **www.ntfp.org** look under Bulletin Board > Job Openings

Interested applicants are requested to submit an application letter, resume and two reference letters to the **info@cmcrafts.org** or 92 A Masikap Ext. St. Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City. Closing date for applications is on February 5, 2007. Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

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Eastwood Property Holdings, Inc., the exclusive marketing company for the premier satellite city Eastwood City, invites qualified applicants for the following key positions:

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- Has the ability and proven track record to manage and lead property consultants toward the achievement of team sales targets
- Can further develop and grow the business

Human Resources and Development Managers (2)

- Male/female
- 28 to 32 years old
- With extensive experience handling all HRAD functions
- Capable of hiring key positions in the organization.
- Can work under a high pressure environment with given deadlines

Property Consultants (10)

- Male/female
- Not more than 30 years old
- With a college degree from a reputable school
- With pleasing personality and above average communications skills
- Sales experience in the real estate industry a big advantage

Corporate Training Officers (3)

- Male/female
- 27 to 35 years old
- With 3 - 5 years' experience in conducting programs and developing training modules
- Excellent in oral and written communication
- With high energy and strong motivational skills

Interested applicants should bring a resumé with 2 ID photos and look for:

Ms. Jeannie Iturralde
Human Resources Department
Eastwood City Information Center,
Eastwood City, Quezon City
Or e-mail your resumé to
hrad@eastwoodcity.com.
Call 421-9441 or 421-3961 local 214
for more details.

UPGRADE 2007
the 18th university job fair

UP JOB FAIR

UPGRADE 2007

The 18th UP Diliman Job Fair

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The organizers will gladly welcome any inquiries regarding this event through the following: Tel. No./Fax No.: 929.5835 or e-mail and send your resumes to upjobfair2007@gmail.com. You may also contact us through any of the following: 0927-3303691 (Beth), 0918-6160885 (DK), 0916-4460329 (Theresa), 0927-6064730 (Maila), 0917-6100684 (Kristy).

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  Must be a licensed Chemical Engineer or Chemist, familiar with finishing line supervision activities, able to implement strict compliance with quality control and production documentation. Must be adept in color mixing to attain required color or stain by customers. Computer Literate (MS WORD, EXCEL)
  Will to be assigned in Alabang, Muntinglupa
- **Area Sales Managers and Sales Executives**
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  Computer Literate (MS WORD, EXCEL)
  Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
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- **Field Engineers/Architects**
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- **Quality/ Quantity Control Engineers**
  Graduate of any Engineering course with at least 2 yrs experience in Quality and Quantity control procedures. Will be in charge of making sure all phases of production conforms with quality and quantity requirements. Must be computer literate (MS Word and Excel). For Alabang / Cabuyao
- **Accounting Supervisor and Accounting Assistant**
  College Graduate, major in Accounting, Must have excellent knowledge in Accounting and Auditing works -Knowledge of MS WORD, EXCEL, MYOB and QUICKBOOKS
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- **Electrician**
  Must be a Licensed Electrician, experienced in Industrial equipment and 3 phase motors. Able to troubleshoot / repair electro/mechanical problems, rewinding and do in-plant electrical connections / installations.
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- **Inventory Assistant**
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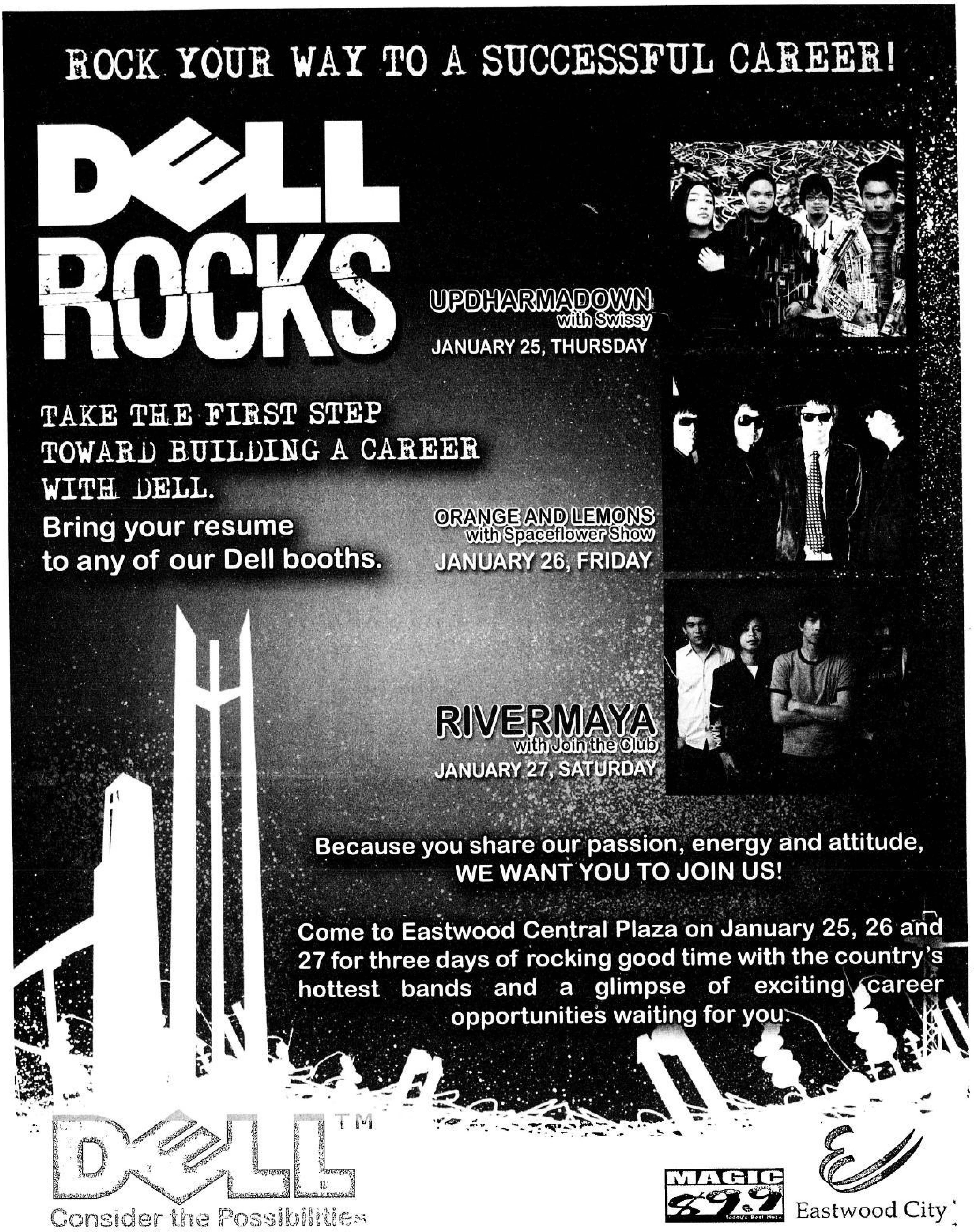

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- Photocopy & Original of the ff:
  - NBI Clearance (less than 1 year old)
  - Birth Certificate
  - Transcript of Records

Applicants can apply personally to:
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OWWA, Microsoft and RCBC launch new online mobile remittance service

THE OVERSEAS WORKERS Welfare Association (OWWA), together with Microsoft Philippines and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC), announce a new, unique Internet-based platform called Tele-OFW (Overseas Free Way) which uses the Microsoft-enabled One Follow Me ™ service.

RCBC is the first banking partner to utilize One Follow Me ™. A first in the banking industry, the Tele-OFW is the newest product offered by RCBC Telemoney, the remittance arm of the universal bank. Tele-OFW uses the power of the Internet, a the Windows Mobile 5.0 (WiFi/ cellular enabled) device or a PC, and Microsoft Live Communication Server to enable OFWs to Communicate by IM, call home for free using VoIP and manage their money from wherever they may be in the world.

"Our OFWs are modern-day heroes for the Philippine economy," said Marianito Roque, Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. "They contribute significantly to our economy and it is only proper that we are able to provide them with a service that reduces the costs it takes for them to stay in touch with loved ones left here in the country."

In 2005 alone, OFW-remittance totaled $10.7 million, 10% of the Philippine annual gross domestic product.

"We are excited at the prospect of being able to give back to over eight million OFWs that are supporting our country through their efforts overseas," said Antonio Javier Jr., General Manager, Microsoft Philippines. "One Follow Me ™ offers our OFWs more options to manage their money, and it also gives importance to the value of keeping family ties intact by strengthening means of communications.

We have been working with OWWA over the past few years in programs that enable OFWs to realize their full potential. We have launched major OFW programs with OWWA: *Tulay* and *Konek Ka D'yan*, and now, One Follow Me ™. This positively reflects our desire to enable Filipinos and their families to achieve their full potential. We look forward to working with more organizations like OWWA and RCBC who believe in our commitment to providing quality products and services to benefit more Filipinos," Javier elaborated.

Fund-remittance is also made easy and simple through the Tele-OFW enabled by the One Follow Me ™ service. Participating OFWs and their families are provided with RCBC debit bankcards and digital accounts powered by Microsoft Windows Live ID. Through the digital accounts, OFWs can digitally transfer remittance funds. Designated recipients are able to receive the funds directly using the Windows Mobile 5.0 phones or Windows-based personal computers (PCs).

Moreover, the new procedure is also economical as it eliminates third-party remittance fees.

"This new feature is in keeping with the bank's commitment to enhance our RCBC TeleMoney service, encourage our *kababayans* to put greater trust and confidence in banks in handling their hard-earned money, and make their lives more convenient and meaningful through technology," said RCBC senior vice president and TeleMoney Group head Cynthia Paras-Santos.

OFWs and beneficiaries who open an RCBC TeleMoney account can request for the Tele-OFW system, which comes with a personal computer, Internet connection, and a Windows Mobile 5.0 cellular phone. OFWs can use their mobile phones to access the Internet and conduct single or multiple fund transfers. The money is credited to their beneficiaries' accounts and can be withdrawn using ATMs.

According to Javier, One Follow Me ™ also highlights the positive impact of technology on revolutionizing economics and communications.

"Programs such as this show how the Microsoft software platform approach can positively change the way people transact and stay in contact. Here we are seeing how technology is making a real and meaningful impact on the lives of people," said Javier.

'ONE FOLLOW ME' SERVICE OF MICROSOFT

Photo shows Marnie Tolosa (leftmost), Enterprise Partner Manager, Microsoft Philippines, briefing the president on the One Follow Me™ service of Microsoft during the recently held inauguration of the Microsoft Southern Philippines office. Through this service, Overseas Filipino Workers can utilize some of the most cost-effective methods to stay connected with their families and remit funds. Also participating in the demonstration are (from left) Rep. Raul del Mar, First District, Cebu City; Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Second District, Cebu City; Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, Tourism Sec. Ace Durano; and TJ Javier, General Manager, Microsoft Philippines.

RP maintains leadership in global maritime benchmarks

ADHERENCE TO THE GLOBAL standards enforced by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will continue to be the Philippines' firm benchmark in maintaining its leadership on the world labor market for quality, highly skilled maritime workers, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion affirmed.

This developed as Brion received a report confirming that the Philippines has maintained its good standing in the global List of Parties to the IMO's 1978 Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW), as amended.

The Labor Chief said that the Philippines' continuity in the List of Parties, as confirmed by the London-based IMO's Maritime Safety Committee at its recent 82nd Session, once again affirmed that "our country has given full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the STCW."

Amidst the report, Brion stated that the global deployment of overseas Filipino seafarers breached the 250,000 mark worldwide for the first time in 2006, while their remittances through banking channels rose above the US$1.5 billion level.

He said that the global deployment of seafarers in 2006 reached a total of 260,084, or a growth of 4.9 percent from 247,983 in 2005. On the other hand, their inward remittances to the country's economy surpassed US$1.589 billion in the first 10 months of 2006, or a growth of 16.40 percent, compared to $1.365 billion in the same period in 2005.

"Pending the Central Bank's final report, it is likely that the total seafarers' remittances will approach the $2-billion level in 2006," Brion said.

In an earlier report through Labor Undersecretary for Policy, Program, and International Affairs Arturo L. Sodusta, the DOLE's Maritime Training Council (MTC) said that the Philippines' good standing in the List of Parties had been confirmed in the latest Circular of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee following its 82nd session.

MTC Acting Executive Director Ramon T. Tionloc, Jr. indicated that the List contained the Parties to the 1978 STCW, as amended, confirmed by the Committee "to have communicated information, which demonstrates that full and complete effect is given to the relevant provisions of the Convention."

Welfare of vulnerable DHs to be globally pursued

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECretary Arturo D. Brion firmly affirmed, on the heels of the Philippines' success in addressing and putting to past the human trafficking of vulnerable entertainers, that the country will now move to reduce, if not eliminate, abuses on vulnerable Filipino women working as maids overseas.

Brion said that squarely, the thrust will be founded firmly on sounder standards, the global campaign for quality jobs, strengthening of traditional as well as emerging overseas labor markets for the OFWs, and stronger anti-illegal recruitment and human trafficking efforts which shall be inter-agency in nature.

The Labor Chief, with the statement, thus allayed the fears of rallyists, mainly former and would-be domestic helpers (DHs) abroad, as well as recruiters, in the government's direction towards better standards, welfare, and protection for working Filipino women abroad.

"We want to see improvements on the matter of the salaries of our DHs abroad, which had gone down to the $200 level, and if we do not address the situation, this could deteriorate further as reports we have received indicate," Brion said.

"And thus," he said, "it is high time that we address the situation, and it is in this light that the new minimum salary of $400 we have imposed for DHs will not weaken global OFW deployment, but even set a favorable standard based on the global preference for our overseas Filipino workers."

Data from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) indicate that about 80 percent of welfare cases were composed of women OFWs working as DHs overseas.

Brion, in a recent press conference, bared that DHs comprised some 90,000, or less than 10 percent, of the total 1.083 million OFWs deployed globally in 2006. "This means that other skilled OFWs comprise the majority of our global deployment, and the government is sensitive that the abuses and ill-treatment of OFWs in the lower end jobs, like DHs, be pushed back or are eliminated through better conditions."

"Without such, the illegal recruitment of vulnerable DHs for perilous jobs abroad can only be fueled on such deteriorating pay and other onerous conditions."

Brion, during the recent Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (Polo) Command Conference, also emphasized that placement fees will no longer be charged for DHs bound for overseas, adding that it is a must to resist and counteract the insidious effects of recruiters engaged in "cut-throat" competition for the recruitment of would-be DHs.

Brion said that the new $400 standard will not affect OFW deployment as he bared that 800,000 high end jobs are awaiting the OFWs in the next three years due to the strengthening of overseas labor markets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Canada, Spain, Japan, and other host economies.

The Governing Board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, through a series of Resolutions issued in 2006, had effectively increased the entry level minimum salary of overseas DHs to $400 (Resolution No. 5, Series of 2006); prescribed a minimum age of 25 years old for female household workers abroad (Resolution No. 04); and prohibited the collection of placement fees whether prior to deployment or onsite through salary deduction; among others.

"Just think of the previous cases of underage, ill-protected DHs abroad who suffered abuses due to the lack of protection, and you will realize what these vitally important measures mean to both the well-being of our vulnerable overseas women workers as well as our national interest," Brion said.

He asked those who protested against the new $400 minimum salary for overseas Filipino DHs to look instead on the long-term gains, as the new standard would place the DHs on a better footing against abuse and exploitation abroad.

"We are aware that, as a result of their employment in our OFW host countries, OFWs have a role in the development of their formal as well as informal economies, and I am confident that together with us, our host countries are aware of the need to base such progress on solid standards, rather than upon deteriorating conditions ultimately unfavorable to our mutual and global economic growth, as well as the welfare of vulnerable migrants."

Exsellence Part 2 set on Jan. 26

START THE YEAR 2007 WITH A bang! Don't miss the national sales rally dubbed as Exsellence Part 2 – Conquering an Enemy called Average slated on Jan. 26 at the Holiday Inn Galleria. Distinguished speakers include Cecilio Pedro, president and CEO of Lamoiyan Corp, Donald Lim, CEO of Yehey.com and president of Philippine Marketing Association; Jos, Ortega, chair and CEO of Brandlab, Jesse Rebustillo, Head of Classified Ads Division of Philippine Daily Inquirer; John Mangun, Managing Director of Aranca Research Phils., Inc; and Rene Espiriosa, Managing Director of Porter & Miles, Inc.

The topics include The Selling Games; Inspiring Stories of the World's Greatest Athletes; Selling not just to Win But to Break Records; 10 Record-Breaking Techniques, Internet Marketing Magic, 6 Power Sources in Sales Negotiation, 7 Sales Negotiation Techniques, Quick Tips of Handling Price Objections, Clinch that Sale!

This national event is slated on Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria. It is organized by Porter and Miles, Inc, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / registration.

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UPGRADE 2007: The 18th University Jobfair tomorrow

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPpines Diliman Office of Counseling and Guidance and the U.P. Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants will be holding UPGRADE 2007, an event designed to benefit both companies and students by providing a common ground between the country's cream of the crop and leading companies. It is the 18th University Job Fair, from Jan. 22 to 26 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman Campus. Students, especially those who are graduating, from UP Diliman, UP Manila, UP Los Baños, UP Extension Program in Pampanga and other colleges and universities are invited to this grand event.

The organizers will gladly welcome any inquiries regarding this event through the following: Tel. No./ Fax No.: 926.4162 or e-mail and send your resumés to upjobfair2007@gmail.com.

You may also contact us through any of the following: 0927-3303691 (Beth), 0918-6160885 (DK), 0916-4460329 (Theresa), 0927-6064730 (Maila), 0917-6100684 (Kristy).

Baldoz clarifies "deployment of 20,000 DHs"

ADMINISTRATOR ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-Baldoz recently clarified that when the reforms on the deployment of Filipino household service workers were passed by the POEA governing board, it was clear that the reforms will not jeopardize existing contracts between the Filipino workers and their foreign employers verified as of Dec 16.

Baldoz said POEA allowed the processing of the documents of some 20,000 Filipino household service workers because the contracts were already signed even before the implementation of the new policy on domestic helpers and these accounts are covered by the board resolution for processing during the transition period up to March 1, 2007.

"The Board allowed the deployment of these workers but not in accommodation to the requests of recruitment agencies", Baldoz added.

Baldoz said the exemption for these accounts was for the new age and salary requirement only but the required training, skills certification, and language and culture seminar were to be imposed.

POEA will fully implement the policy after March 1, 2007, Baldoz added.

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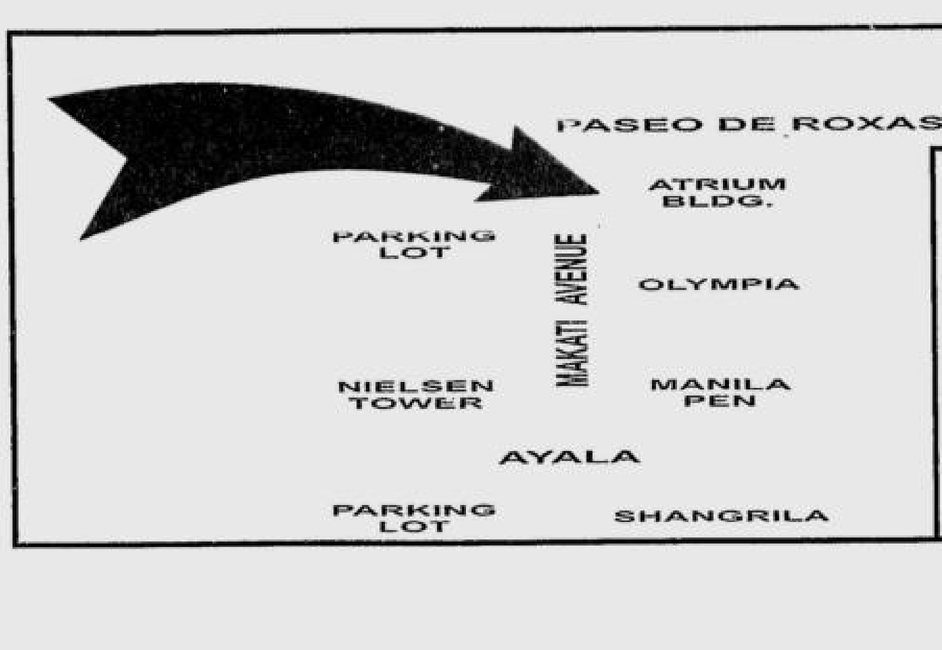

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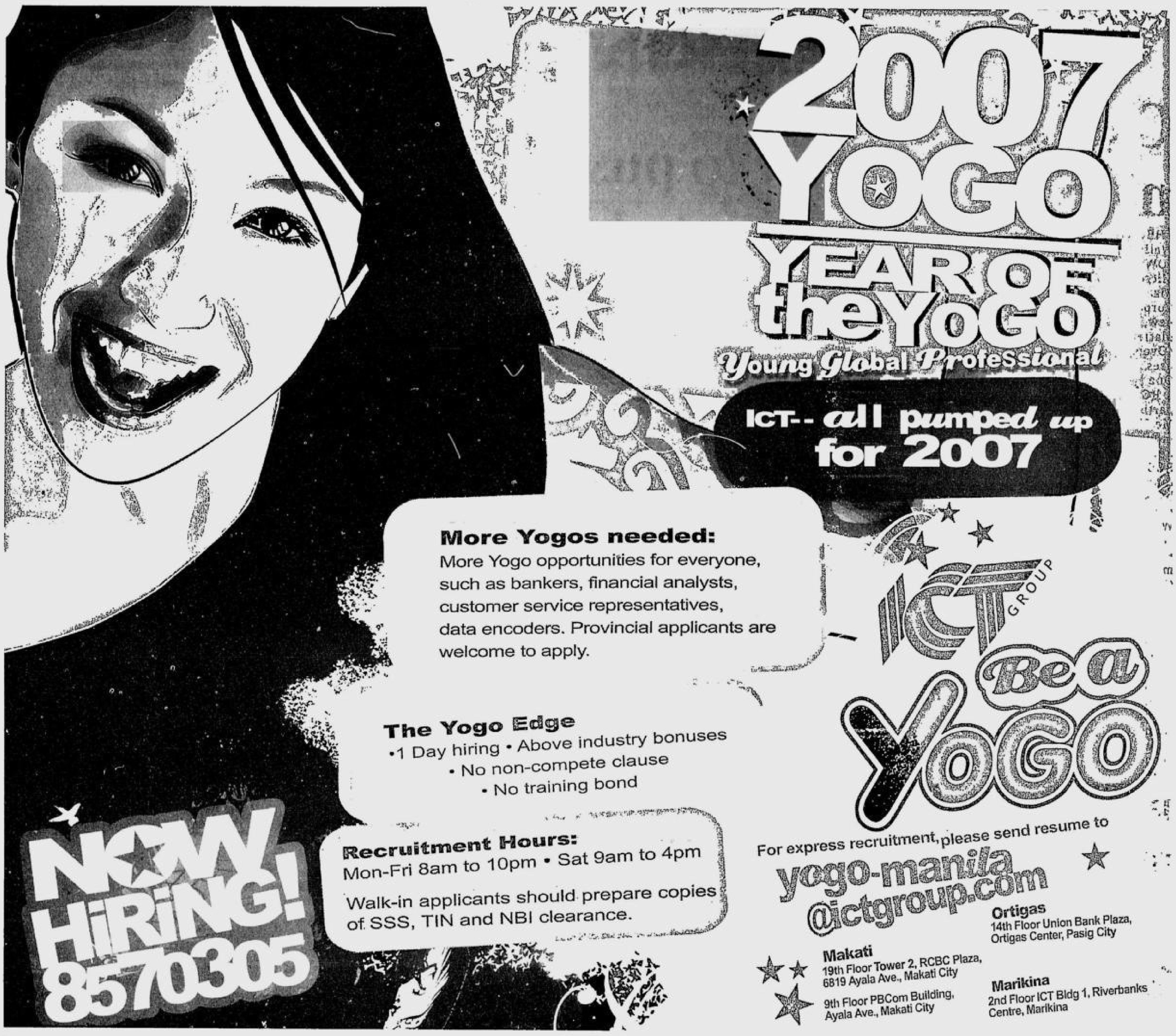

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Firm shows how to push employees to go into business

THE RELATIONSHIP between employers and workers is a complex one. Both parties have different needs and expectations that require addressing. In a competitive environment, companies need to focus on their core competences.

The trend today is business outsourcing. To maintain a productive run, companies tend to hire contractual workers.

The formal labor sector consists of about five million regular employees with about two million belonging to organized unions. Twenty million workers comprise the informal labor sector in the country. Despite their great number, seasonal employees are disadvantaged by the fact that their chance for progress is hindered by the unpredictable nature of nonregular employment.

Also, they tend to earn less than their regular counterparts not to mention the lack of benefits and compensation.

A relatively new but innovative approach to provide employment for those in the informal sector, especially the contractual workers, is that of Asiapro Cooperative. Asiapro Cooperative is a multi-purpose cooperative that takes care of placing its worker-members in temporary jobs in cooperating companies.

Asiapro Cooperative helps those who are not permanently employed in the formal sector. Under its model, worker-members organize themselves and form a cooperative society. The cooperative becomes the contracting party that deals with business groups that are increasingly outsourcing labor services that are not part of their core competence. Asiapro Cooperative provides a steady source of efficient manpower and services to various companies to ensure the long-term productivity for these contracting parties. It also looks after its members and ensures that they get good packages as members and co-owners of their own enterprise.

According to founder Leo Parma, Asiapro Cooperative pioneered the organization of a non-organized sector of labor which is the nonregular workers in the Philippines.

"Nobody will listen to them to get them business opportunities. The cooperative approach provides them with business-to-business type of interaction and negotiation with client. If we come into terms, then we are in business and it's non-adversarial," he says.

Membership with Asiapro Cooperative ensures access to savings and credit facilities and other livelihood services for the members. Being a multi-purpose cooperative, Asiapro Cooperative is also engaged in service contracting, management services, productivity and manpower resource services in activities such as, but not limited to, production, manufacturing, agriculture, office administration, sales and promotion, logistics, housekeeping and maintenance.

The highly competitive stage calls for adjustments on the part of employers.

The cost of recruiting and training new workers after every contractual period is a major consideration. As a direct consequence of replacing trained workers, productivity, quality and efficiency might in some way be compromised.

"We tell our clients this setting is better for you because you continue to engage the same productive workers, you continue to have flexibility. Our mind set is entrepreneurial so we give you our best," says Parma.

Asiapro Cooperative had about a dozen clients during its initial operation in 1999. Today it has about 130 clients. It started with 66 members; today it is made up of 18,500 worker-members with a great rate of members actively engaged.

As co-owners of the enterprise, they also have the opportunity to share whatever success the cooperative will reap in the future.

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

Parental concern

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

MOST PARENTS SHOW THEIR CONCERN FOR THEIR children by working hard in order to provide for the needs of their offspring. They slave themselves in their jobs to earn more money to give to their children or buy more things, even luxurious items for them. They would think and believe that their children, stuffed with an abundance of goodies, would be happy and grateful for their solicitude. Yet, many parents get frustrated and unhappy to find that their labors seem futile, watching their kids grow with undesirable traits and behavior. They would later realize that the children needed more love and personal care from them than the material things they have worked hard to give them.

The parental concern shown by Mary and Joseph for the child Jesus is an example for parents to learn and imitate. Both were looking for the lost Jesus "with great anxiety" borne out of sincere, total love and affection for the child. They must have lavished Him more with their presence than the presents (things) they would have given Him.

Providing genuine love and care for the children therefore, should be an important factor for the working parent's regard for his work. His pursuits on his job, career or profession should be determined by the parental duty to provide the children with true, integral growth, which would include the physical, social, psychological and spiritual aspects. The value of spending quality time and presence with the children should be given more importance than working excessively even for the purpose of gaining greater income for the family. Loving the children more will benefit them more than working harder for them. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

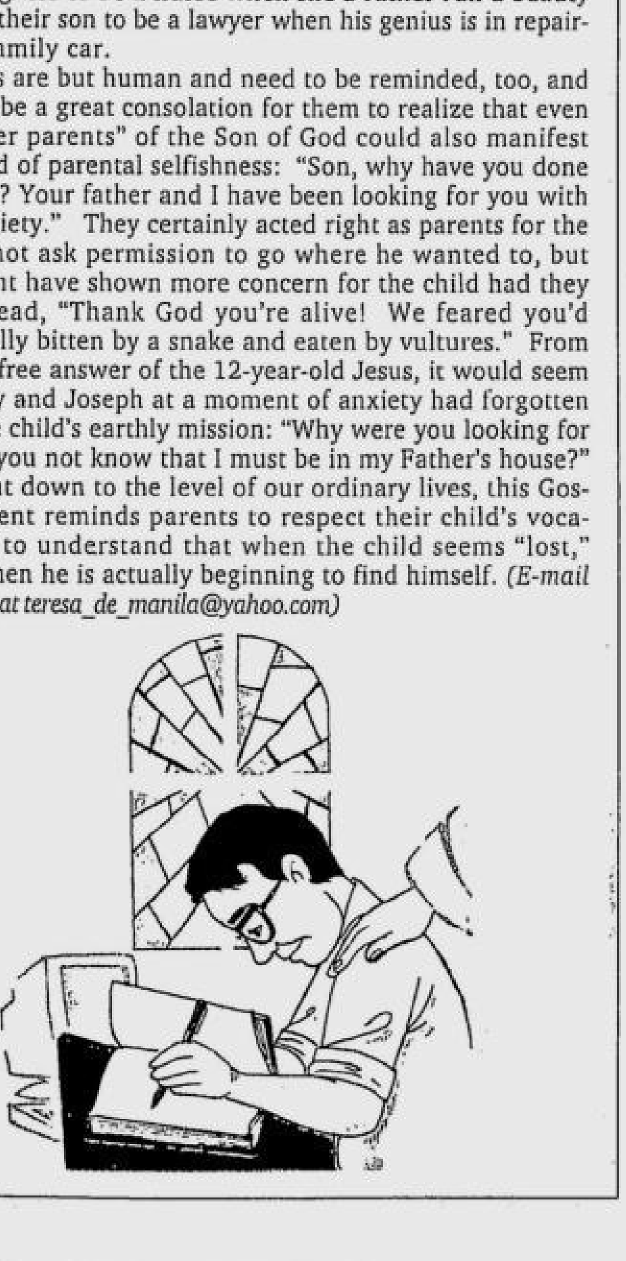
Lost or found?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

MANY PEOPLE—IF THEY DO NOT BECOME TOTAL DISAPpointments in the workplace—remain lukewarm in their job without even knowing why. The causes behind this situation are numerous but a more significant one is their parents' failure to detect early in life the child's aptitude and to properly direct this towards his or her fulfillment in due time. This happens when parents, in spite of or because of their best intentions, overlook the child's heartfelt inclinations and rely only on their authority as parents in designing their children's future. For instance, they would want their daughter to be a nurse when she'd rather run a beauty salon, or their son to be a lawyer when his genius is in repairing the family car.

Parents are but human and need to be reminded, too, and it should be a great consolation for them to realize that even the "foster parents" of the Son of God could also manifest some kind of parental selfishness: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." They certainly acted right as parents for the boy did not ask permission to go where he wanted to, but they might have shown more concern for the child had they said instead, "Thank God you're alive! We feared you'd been fatally bitten by a snake and eaten by vultures." From the guilt-free answer of the 12-year-old Jesus, it would seem that Mary and Joseph at a moment of anxiety had forgotten about the child's earthly mission: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Brought down to the level of our ordinary lives, this Gospel incident reminds parents to respect their child's vocation and to understand that when the child seems "lost," that is when he is actually beginning to find himself. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*



'How can I survive being downsized?'

I AM IN MY MID-30S, HAVE A wife and two kids in school, and have just lost my job in a large multinational, my first employer. I never anticipated that the massive downsizing will affect me, since I have always been a superior performer. But in a flash, by some sudden stroke of the finger of fate, I am back on the street looking for a job again.

To be honest, I am totally devastated emotionally. Financially, however, I can't complain—I received a windfall. What can I do to overcome this feeling? How should I handle my finances? My wife still has a job that earns a modest income, but I can't take being fed by my better half.

Downsized

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

As I usually say, you are in good company. These days, downsizing in many parts of the world is fast becoming an ordinary event. Downsizing has nothing to do with your performance—it's a strategy chosen by many large companies to reduce costs, increase productivity and enhance organizational growth and profitability.

Stay calm

The first thing you should do is to stay calm. Worry, anger or disbelief will not help you get over the situation you are now in. If you stay calm, you can think more clearly about what to do. Negative reactions to the situation will not produce positive results for you. Don't get me wrong—I didn't say that you should deny your feelings. Feel what you have to feel, but get over with it soon and get down to starting all over again. You must realize that getting angry will not help you rise above the situation. It's not the end of the world! You just lost your job—not your life!

Before you leave

Just before you receive your severance pay and sign your quit claim, go to your boss or your HR manager. Ask for the breakdown of your separation pay and see if everything due you is tucked into it—unused vacation and sick leaves, medical benefits after severance, tax exemptions, etc.

Verify if you are entitled to the retirement plan and if the separation pay already includes the retirement pay. Usually, these are two separate and distinct benefits.

Ask if you can be referred to a sister company or affiliate for a job. If there is a prohibition from joining a competitor, ask for an exemption. High-performing employees who are downsized can be great assets to competitors. If an outplacement program is part of the separation package, find out how you can benefit from it. Get a personal recommendation, certificate of employment, certification of SSS premium payments, etc.

Don't burn bridges

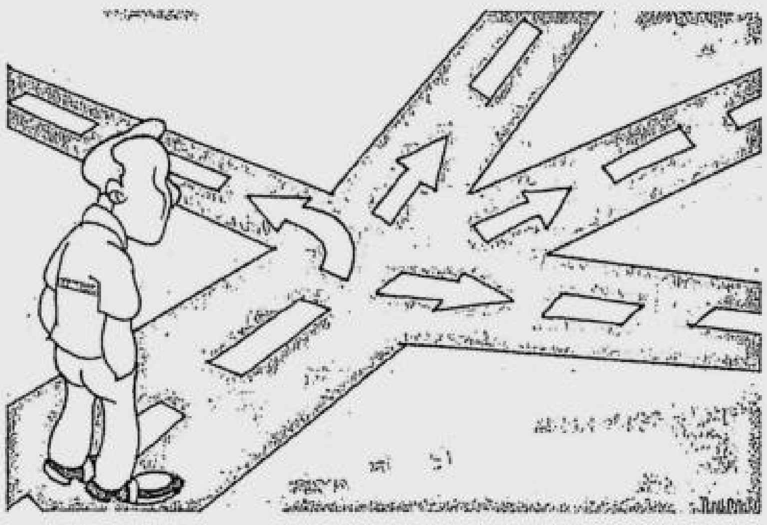
Keep your doors open to the possibility that your company might need your services, even on a part-time or contractual basis. You said that you were a superior performer. Your boss might recommend you for a project with your company.

It is usually more difficult to get a job if you are jobless. Ironically, the best candidates for any job are those who are not looking for it because they are employed elsewhere. Corporate headhunters look within the active ranks of employees to fill in vacancies in other companies. The jobless tend to carry a handicap in job hunting. Realize that you need all the help to get a new job.

Downsize your finances

Since you no longer have a job, you naturally should spend less. This is the best opportunity to downsize your finances, too. Resist the urge to splurge on yourself when you receive your hefty separation pay. It is your last pay—make it last.

Develop a financial plan. Know what you should do with your money, so that you will not run out of it. Instead of spending it needlessly, make it work for you. Truly, this is your opportunity to make your money work for you. After all, you've been working for money for a long time.



Make a monthly budget and stick with it. Find out how much your money will earn and how much you can earn by doing part-time or project jobs, or by selling anything you can sell. Then live below that income. Don't spend more than you can earn.

Earn

Even if you are jobless, find a way to earn. It could be a small home-based, family business or a part-time job. You can only downsize your finances by so much. You still have to feed your family, pay utilities and maintain a certain lifestyle, no matter how scaled down it is. In short, you still have to spend—so, find a way to earn, even as you look for a more permanent job.

Invest

Check out possible investment opportunities where you can put your hard-earned separation pay. Be wary of offers that are too good to be true— chances are they aren't.

Understand that the lower the risk, the lower the return on your investment. Find the right balance between risks and returns. Invest only on things you are familiar with, especially if it is a business. Some businesses need personal attention. If you don't have the knack for going into business, by all means, don't.

Invest only an amount that will not worry you. Worrying will not increase returns on your investment—wise choice will.

Last weekend (Jan. 13-14), the BalikPINAS Multi-Purpose Cooperative had its successful Mega Launch and Expo at the Megatrade Hall, Megamall. There were exhibitors that offered franchising for as low as P16,888. Certainly, franchising is a great way to start a business nowadays. (E-mail me for details or check out www.balikpinas.com.ph)

Be humble

If you used to drive to work, try commuting now that you have no job. If you used to eat in restaurants for lunch, try dining at home this time. You don't have to buy a new wardrobe now every payday. After all, you don't have paydays anymore. Whether you like it or not, your wife is now the breadwinner. Swallow your pride for the moment and learn to live with it. Help your family get through this situation. Your loss of job does not justify your moods and the difficulties of dealing with you.

Is it a humbling experience to be downsized? Of course, it is. But humility is a virtue that makes people great. In fact, even people who have regular jobs should try more humility— and see how much better and richer their lives can become.

Anyway, I hope you can use my advice to cushion the impact of the downsizing you just experienced. Let me give you a riddle to perk you up—what is the difference between a recession and a depression?

Someone said that recession is when the economy is so down that your neighbors lose their job. Depression is when you lose your job.

(The author is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He is also actively involved with ECOP, PMAP and AMCHAM. He can be reached at ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com)

Recruitment firm banks on technology for success

WITH MORE RECRUITMENT companies entering the field every year to cash in on the deployment abroad of skilled manpower, the Philippines' most abundant resource, competition is fast becoming stiff.

The owner of Davis International Recruitment Agency found a key to climb out of the vicious cycle and challenge larger job placement companies for the top spot.

"Technology. It's something we have improved and upgraded here in our new office," says Liza Davis, the agency's owner and general manager, at the launching of its office at Highway 54 Plaza, across the SM Megamall along Edsa.

"In just over three years of operation, Davis International Recruitment Agency has established a proven competence and a steady business relationship with employers in the Middle East, "she says. "Coupled with this solid experience in the field of recruitment and job placement, technology can help the agency create its own niche in other employer-rich countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada."

The lobby and reception area of the agency's new office is dominated by a 32-inch LCD wall television and the reception desk has two computers with LCD monitors to facilitate queries regarding the applicants' status.

Testing rooms has nine computers with LCD monitors, headsets for applicants to fill up application form, take English Test (grammar and listening) and Typing Speed Test.

"These technological marvels are parts of a grand plan to launch Davis International Recruitment Agency into the future and its destiny as the top job placement firm in the country," she says. "I see these gadgets as marketing tools for the benefit of the company, the employers, and the applicants."

How can these gadgets be used as marketing tools? The whole office is wired. Closed-circuit cameras are placed at strategic places all over the office, particularly in the testing areas. These cameras are then connected to a central routing system that feeds not only the large television screen at the lobby but also the Internet through the agency's website at www.davismanpower.com which is still under progress.

"I want employers to see how we work and how our applicants perform during our selection process," Davis explains. "We're also planning to install a videophone system so employers can conduct interviews even from thousands of miles away." "Right now, though, we can do this through webcams installed at every workstation in the office," she adds.

To date, Davis International Recruitment Agency has deployed more than 1,000 technical and medical workers to the Middle East.

COME & JOIN

OPEN HOUSE JOB FAIR FOR RECRUITERS AND CALL CENTER AGENTS

JANUARY 27, 2007, 9AM - 6PM, 7F 1800 Building (the new building across McDonalds), Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City
Walk-in or pre-register by calling JEN at 9952067, SHEREE at 9956777 or CJ at 9952099

IBM
Your name
Your position
IBM Business Services, Inc.
17th Floor, Cyber One Building
Eastwood City, Cyberpark
E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue
Libis, Quezon City 1110
Tel (632) your number
Fax (632) 9952997
Mobile (63) your number
yourname@ph.ibm.com

Are you a recruiter or a call center professional?
Do you want a better and more rewarding career?
Do you want to be part of a great Company?
Do you want to become an IBMER?

If yes, then this is the best time to join us!

We have urgent requirements for the following positions:

We are looking for recruiters and call center professionals who can start immediately and who are willing to work on night shift and travel abroad if required.

RECRUITMENT RELATED POSITIONS (Night Shift Operations):

1. ***Recruitment Consultants or Senior Recruitment Specialists (MB-RC)***
   Candidates must have experience in recruiting for senior and executive positions. Preferably from non-IBM accredited recruitment or executive search firms, BPO/Shared Services, and multinational companies. (25 open positions)

2. ***Recruitment Specialists for Interviewing (MB-RS)***
   Candidates must have experience in interviewing and coordinating with hiring managers. Recruiters from call centers, BPO(s), shared services centers, and multinational companies are preferred. (50 open positions)

3. ***Recruitment Specialists for Sourcing (MB-RSS)***
   Candidates must have experience in sourcing and managing different sourcing channels. Recruiters from call centers, BPO(s), shared services centers, and multinational companies are preferred. (20 open positions)

4. ***Recruitment Operations Managers (MB-ROM)***
   Candidates must have similar experience as a Recruitment Manager preferably from a call center, BPO(s), shared services centers, and multinational companies are preferred. (10 open positions)

5. ***Recruitment Technology Specialists (MB-RTS)***
   Candidates must have experience in handling recruitment-information systems or applicant tracking systems such as Peoplesoft, Taleo, etc. (20 open positions)

OPENINGS FOR CALL CENTER AGENTS:

6. ***Customer Interface Associates (MB-CIA)***
   Candidates must have excellent communication skills and good customer service orientation. Candidates must have a bachelors degree in any 4-years course. Experience as a Customer Care Representatives/Call Center Agent is a plus. (50 open positions)

7. ***Customer Interface Team Leaders (MB-CTL)***
   Candidates must have experience as a TL in a contact or call center. (10 open positions)

8. ***HR and Finance related openings (MB-CCHRFA)***
   We are encouraging call center professionals who would like to try something new to apply for our HR and Finance related back-office work openings. Get a better and more rewarding career! Take advantage of this opportunity!

MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

9. ***Transition Managers (MB-TM)***
   Candidates must have advanced project management skills and preferably have knowledge in new accounts/process transition, migration, or implementation. Preferably from the BPO or Shared Services Industry. (25 open positions)

10. ***Operations Managers (MB-OM)***
   Candidates must have experience as a Operations Managers/Directors preferably in a BPO/Shared Services company. Experience in HR and Six Sigma is a definite advantage. (10 open positions)

HR RELATED

11. ***HR Professionals (MB-HRP)***
   Candidates must be HR Practitioners with experience in one or more of the following HR processes: payroll, compensation, benefits, employee data, travel expense accounting, HRIS, expatriate relocation, and international assignments.

12. ***HR Professionals with Peoplesoft skills (MB-HRPS)***
   Candidates must be HR practitioners who have knowledge on any of the HR facets mentioned above and with knowledge in Peoplesoft. (10 open positions)

How to Apply:

1. *JOIN OUR OPEN HOUSE JOB FAIR FOR RECRUITERS AND CALL CENTER AGENTS!*
   IBS RECRUITMENT CENTER
   January 27, 2007, 9am - 6pm, 7F 1800 Building, Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City
   PRE-REGISTER: Call JENNIFER ESPINOSA at 9952067 or SHEREE LIM at 9956777

2. *For fresh graduates and professionals who have less than 2 years work experience:*
   a. *Walk-In – for faster processing of your application, we would like to advise you to walk-in at our Vitality Hire Testing Center at the 27F Tower 2 (c/o Regus Offices), Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati (Up until the end of January)*
   b. *By appointment – call JENNIFER ESPINOSA at 9952067*
   c. *Email – send your resumes at IBMHIRE@PH.IBM.COM*

3. *For professionals who have more than 2 years experience, send your resumes to SHEREE LIM at tlims@ph.ibm.com*

4. *For managerial positions, send your resumes to BRYAN BALANGUE at bjbalangue@ph.ibm.com.*

JOB Market COMPACT

Get exposure in JobMarket twice every week.

Sundays in Inquirer JobMarket and Wednesday in JobMarket Compact.

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

JOB Market

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

(1) CIVIL ENGINEER
- w/ 1 or 2 years experience in construction firm

(1) ARCHITECT
- Newly Graduate w/ Auto CAD

(1) CAD OPERATOR
- W/ 1 year experience

(1) GEN. FOREMAN
- 5 to 10 years experience in construction firm

Please apply at:
SHCI Bldg. No.6 San Isidro St.,
Bo. Kapitolyo Subdivision,
Pineda, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 635-4839 & 635-4813

A TRADE MAGAZINE IS LOOKING FOR A:

PART-TIME EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
- a student of Journalism or any related writing course;
- must be proficient in Adobe, Pagemaker, Illustrator and Photoshop

Interested applicants may apply in person to:
CATALINA SECURITY AGENCY
626 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

CAD OPTR/DESIGN RENDERER
SECRETARY RECEPTIONIST
Bring Sample of Works

RSDGUTIERREZ ARCHITECTS
2/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8114349 / 8123524

A leading local architectural firm is in need of

Architects/Designers
- Graduate of B.S. Architecture
- Minimum experience of 5 years
- Must be knowledgeable in ACADD 2004 (min) / ADOBE PHOTOSHOP/3D STUDIO MAX V.8
- Must have good leadership qualities

Please submit your CURRICULUM VITAE from 8:30 am till 5:30 pm starting 22-25 Jan. only at UNIT 14 A & B, WORLD CENTRE BLDG., #330 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City • Telephone Nos. 8486962 * 8486963

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ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM AWAITS
AGGRESSIVE, MOTIVATED

Professional Sales Representatives
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- Willing to be assigned out of Metro Manila
- Medical background and knowledge of other dialects or languages an advantage but not a must.

1005 G/F VV Soliven Shopping Complex
EDSA San Juan, Metro Manila
January 23/24, 9 a.m. 3 p.m.
Bring Resumé and 2x2 Picture

Join our Team!!!
For Immediate Hiring
LANEMAN MECHANICS
Male, w/ computer and electrical background, 5'3 height, w/ pleasing personality, w/ experience, 25-38 years old, at least College level.

SALES CLERK / CASHIER
Female, w/ computer background, 5'1 height, w/ pleasing personality, w/ experience, 23-30 years old, at least College level.

Playdium
Bowling & Billiard Corp.
26 Tagupo St. cor G. Araneta Ave., QC
Tel. No. 732-0289 / 7320304
E-mail: playdium@skyinet.net

URGENTLY NEEDED
FEMALE ACCOUNTANT (CPA)

Qualifications:
- With 3 to 5 years experience in Financing Institution
- Not more than 35 years of age

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé with 2x2 picture addressed to:
The President
Unit 95, 9th Floor, The Columbia Tower
Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!
PRODUCT MANAGER
Qualifications:
- Male or Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- 2 to 3 years experience in consumer food items
- Degree holder

Send your resumé with photo at:
852 Gov. Pascual Avenue
Potrero, Malabon City
FAX NO. 362-7036

TAKE THIS SIMPLE TEST

○ Prefer a career that does not mess up your body clock, make you lose touch of old friends or miss out on special occasions, take a toll on your health, spend holidays at work and give you less time for your family.
○ You are patient, persevering, persistent and possess above average comprehension and communication skills.
○ A graduate of any four-year business or human / industrial relations course preferably from any of the premiere state colleges or universities.
○ Proficient in spreadsheets and word processing software.
○ Was once a working student

If you say yes to at least four items then be part of a dynamic team who believes in customer service, excellence and commitment. We offer excellent training opportunities, exposure to industry accepted best practices, and a chance to work in a fast paced environment whose quality systems are aligned to ISO 9001 standards.

We are inviting candidates for:
- PAYROLL OPERATIONS SPECIALISTS
- TIMEKEEPING OPERATIONS SPECIALISTS

If you believe you have a keen sense for details, able to adhere to quality management systems and work with some of the best companies in the industry, then any of these positions are for you.

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Send your resumé with picture to
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MEDICAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
- Male, 22-30 years old
- College graduate preferably but not necessarily
- With medical background
- Aggressive and highly motivated
- Willing to travel to different hospitals nationwide
- With Driver's License

Please send your resumé to:
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Cityland Megaplaza Bldg., ADB Ave.,
Ortigas, Pasig City
or E-mail to: raynhammedical@yahoo.com

TEACHERS
1. **Pre-School, Elementary & High School**
2. **IT Computer Teacher**
3. **Guidance Counselor**

Preferably Board Passers. Must be a Christian & dedicated in the field of Education. Please apply @ 2683 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City near Pasay City Hall (Between Edsa & Libertad)

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROG

NOTICE OF JOB VACAN

VACANCY NO. : 2
DATE ISSUED : 2
CLOSING DATE : 2

POST TITLE : **UN Common Premises Administrator**
ENTRY LEVEL : G-6
OFFICE AND LOCATION : UNDP-Manila
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT : Service Contract (SC) issued by UNDP

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the guidance and supervision of the ARR – Operations, the Common Pr
effective delivery of services to other UN Agencies located in the UN House
outsourced common premises services providers, and accurate charging of shar
The CP administrator promotes a client-oriented approach consistent with UN pri
and any inter-agency agreed protocols and arrangements made specific to the
commitled to judicious and transparent use of UN resources.

The CP Administrator works in close collaboration with the Joint UN Operations
operations staff of other UN Agencies who are part of Common Premises, and
Philippines, individually or collectively as a UN Country Team.

The said results shall be achieved by undertaking the following:

Operational

- Successful planning and implementation of operational strategies for CP procedures and processes towards achieving results, providing feedbac Common Premises plans and activities, and bringing to the attention of res and causes of delays, and likewise recommending new areas of opportun Services interventions could be further advanced and promoted.
- Reporting and backstopping, regularly or as needed, the OMT on CP matte the search for new premises, conducting exploratory studies, data gatheri of information, while building consensus, ownership, unified approach, and clients and other entities involved.
- Supporting and assisting in the implementation of various security plans an the UN Department of Safety and Security (DSS).
- Liaising and networking with Common Premises focal persons in HQ, i Offices for knowledge sharing and exchanges on Common Premises po lessons learnt, while making contributions on this practice area.
- Building and strengthening relationship with owners/administrators of UN Co seamless coordination with UN agencies and external service provide performance monitoring/review/evaluation/assessment of outsourced including, but not limited to, security services, janitorial services, cleaning and calling for actions where necessary.
- Handling daily premises-related concerns of UN agencies including, but n cleaning, uncluttering, access to parking, etc.

Financial

- Effectively administering CP budgets and enforcing cost-recovery mech
- Ensuring efficient and accurate support to financial/accounting and admi from the management of CP, including, but not limited to, preparations of and following up on contributions and bills settlement, budget preparation an reporting to Agencies, etc.
- Ensuring consistent and full compliance with UN rules and regulations, co and internal control framework, as they apply to CP-related work.

Administrative

- Establishing and maintaining an organized, centralized, chronological, upda of all related Common Premises enabling easy access, retrieval and un staff/personnel from participating UN agency, including his/her alternate

2007
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UNDP
Philippines

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GERMAN HYDRAULIC & PLANT SERVICE, INC

We are a multi-national established company, representing servicing products of the world leading manufacturer in Hydrau to the Philippines (www.germanhydraulic.com.ph). As part of 2007 expansion we are in need of aggressive dynamic individu with the following qualifications for the following position:

SALES ENGINEERS – for our Head Office in Makati

- Four (4) year college graduate of Mechanical, Electrica Industrial Engineering course;
- Presentable, hardworking and possessing a strong de to succeed in the field of selling or related marketing, frequ traveling, meeting and winning people, result-oriented; a good track record, expanding accounts and capabl making effective and required sales target;
- Must have good English and verbal communication skil

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Rexrot
Bosch Grou

computer literate in MS Office
- Should know how to drive and must possess a val license

JOB OPENING FOR GRADUATE CADET ENGINEERS

- Four (4) year college graduate of Mechanical, El Industrial Engineering course;
- Presentable, hardworking and possessing a stro to succeed in the field of selling
- Must have good English and verbal communicati computer literate in MS Office

For the right person this position has potential for futu

To the qualified applicants, we offer the following:

- Competitive Salary, Allowance, Commission for Sal care Plan

INTERCONTINENTAL.
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Explore the most global hotel company.

InterContinental Hotels Group owns and manages a portfolio of well-respected brands recognized the world over. An industry pioneer, we are the largest hotel company by number of rooms and manage the world's largest loyalty program. Our expansion shows our commitment to sustained growth into the future. We seek enthusiastic, friendly people who will lend their talents to help us realize our vision of being the world's leading hospitality brand owner.

With more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, WE are the most global Hotel Company.

Our Philippine Reservations Center is looking for:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES / RESERVATION SALES AGENTS
(English, Spanish, Arabic or Japanese*)

Job summary

- Represents the Company by coordinating all aspects of Priority Club Programs and serves as liaison between the guest and hotels in order to maintain member satisfaction
- Delivers Individualized Customer Experiences by focusing on finding hotel accommodations that will best fit our guests needs

Requirements

- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with one of the following languages: English, Spanish, Arabic or Japanese
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education and experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

* *Japanese-speaking CSR's must be native speakers and will be working on day shift*

REPORTING ANALYSTS

Job summary

- Supports strategic and tactical marketing and business issues for global clients
- Provides analytical support on operational and program structure issues for marketing programs
- Provides analysis and reporting for ongoing and adhoc projects
- Assists in compiling lists of email and direct mail recipients based on statistical models built by senior consultants using SAS querying tool

Requirements

- Must have a degree in Business, Marketing, Statistics, Economics or related field
- At least 2 years working with relational decision-support databases (preferably a data warehousing environment), along with demonstrated quantitative skills
- Strong experience with SAS and SQL
- Must be able to prioritize and handle multiple projects
- Must be able to communicate technical information to non-technical audiences
- Must be able to work with minimal supervision

BUSINESS OBJECTS/SAS ANALYSTS

Job summary

- Performs periodic updates on Business Objects Web Intelligence data
- Delivers regular Dashboard reports and Business Objects ad-hoc queries
- Provides analytical support on data issue researches

Requirements

- Must have a degree in Business, Marketing, Statistics, Economics, Computer Science or any related field
- At least 2 years working with relational decision-support databases (preferably a data warehousing environment), along with demonstrated quantitative skills
- Strong experience with SAS, SQL and Business Objects
- Must be able to prioritize and handle multiple projects
- Must have good communication skills
- Must be able to work with minimal supervision

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ePerformax contact centers adds more capacity and agents

EPERFORMAX, A HIGH-PERFORMANCE Philippine-based BPO and contact center, recently inaugurated its newest floor at its facilities in the BPI Buendia Center on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City. This latest floor brings the total number of floors it occupies in the building to nine and its capacity to 1850 stations. The company has grown to its current size in just four short years and will continue expanding in the Philippines in 2007.

"This addition to our capacity enables us to meet the ongoing requirements of our clients' programs. We've just hired over 300 agents in the past three months alone and will continue to hire at this pace into the foreseeable future," said Ron Arambulo, the company's General Manager.

The company also recently became the first call center in the Philippines to be accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to conduct its Finishing Course for Call Center Agents. This course enables ePerformax to hire and train call center "near hires" as part of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's program to support the country's fast-growing BPO industry.

ePerformax opened its high-performance Philippine-based contact center in Manila in 2002 with the vision of being the best of the best call centers in the Philippines. ePerformax prides itself on building strategic partnerships with clients that require English speaking, inbound customer service and sales support to deliver superior results in a very cost effective manner.

The company believes the Philippines is the premiere country for providing top value and top quality contact center services for English speaking customers. This along with their approach to hiring, training, quality assurance and continuous improvement called Performance Maximization™ has enabled ePerformax to achieve their vision of: Best Culture + Best Practices = Best Performance.

Implementing and sustaining a behavioral based safety process

TRAINING WORKS WILL CONDUCT seminar on implementing and sustaining a behavioral based safety process which will be held on Feb. 15 at Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

This course provides insight on the framework and concepts of Behavior-Based Safety Management. It generates participation and involvement of personnel in the behavior-based safety process.

This increases the likelihood of people taking an active role in sharing ideas and opinions on how to avoid risk, thus paving the way for what is ultimately sought in every behavior-based safety process – ownership.

The seminar is designed for all employees and contractors working on-site; site safety professionals who oversee accident prevention; human resource managers that provide effective safety and quality training; managers responsible for looking for continuous safety improvements; site personnel that focuses on increasing effectiveness and efficiency of their existing safety efforts.

The facilitator is Mr. Kamesh Ganeson who is the regional general manager of ECC International. He has over 18 years of experience in the automotive industry, before becoming a full-time consultant. He is a highly sought-after speaker on various topics covering quality, productivity and management systems. He is also a certified lead auditor for the ISO 9001 quality system; certified auditor for the ISO 14000 (Environmental Management System); and certified appraisal team member for the SEI-CMMI Staged Representation for information systems.

For inquiries, call 8451324 and look for Jasmin or email to jrunez@trainingworks.com.ph .

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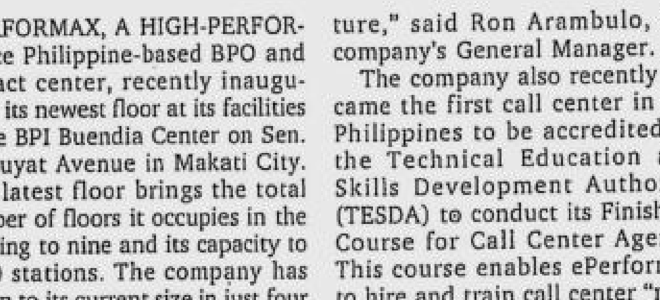


SPIRITUAL LECTURE
T.O.A.P.F.I. residents listen happily to an enriching spiritual lecture given by the center's spiritual director during one of their days' activities. For inquiries, please call 6800-6120 to 21 or 809-2457 / 0917-5555030, and look for Cel Gonzales of The One Algon Place Foundation, Inc, a drug rehabilitation center at Brgy. Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna.

NFA offers seminar workshop on hazard analysis critical control point

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY's Food Development Center (FDC) will conduct a seminar workshop on "Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan Development and Implementation" on February 14 -16 at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Taguig City.

The lecturer for the seminar workshop is Dr. Manuel M. Garcia, a visiting consultant from Canada. A former senior research scientist of the Animal Diseases Research Institute, Agriculture Canada, Dr. Garcia is an internationally recognized microbiologist and food safety expert. He has conducted workshops on HACCP and Rapid Tests in Asia, Australia, China, Latin and North America and has also serve as moderator of the SEARCA-SEAMEO Food Safety Network. He is also a two-time recipient of the Presidential Award for Outstanding Filipino Overseas for Agriculture in 1977 and Microbiology and Food Safety in 1988. A Most Distinguished Alumni Awardee of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Garcia is also a food safety consultant for a number of local companies.

The course fee is P6,650.00 per participant inclusive of a seminar manual, lunches, snacks and a shuttle bus service from Ayala Center, Makati City to FDC and back.

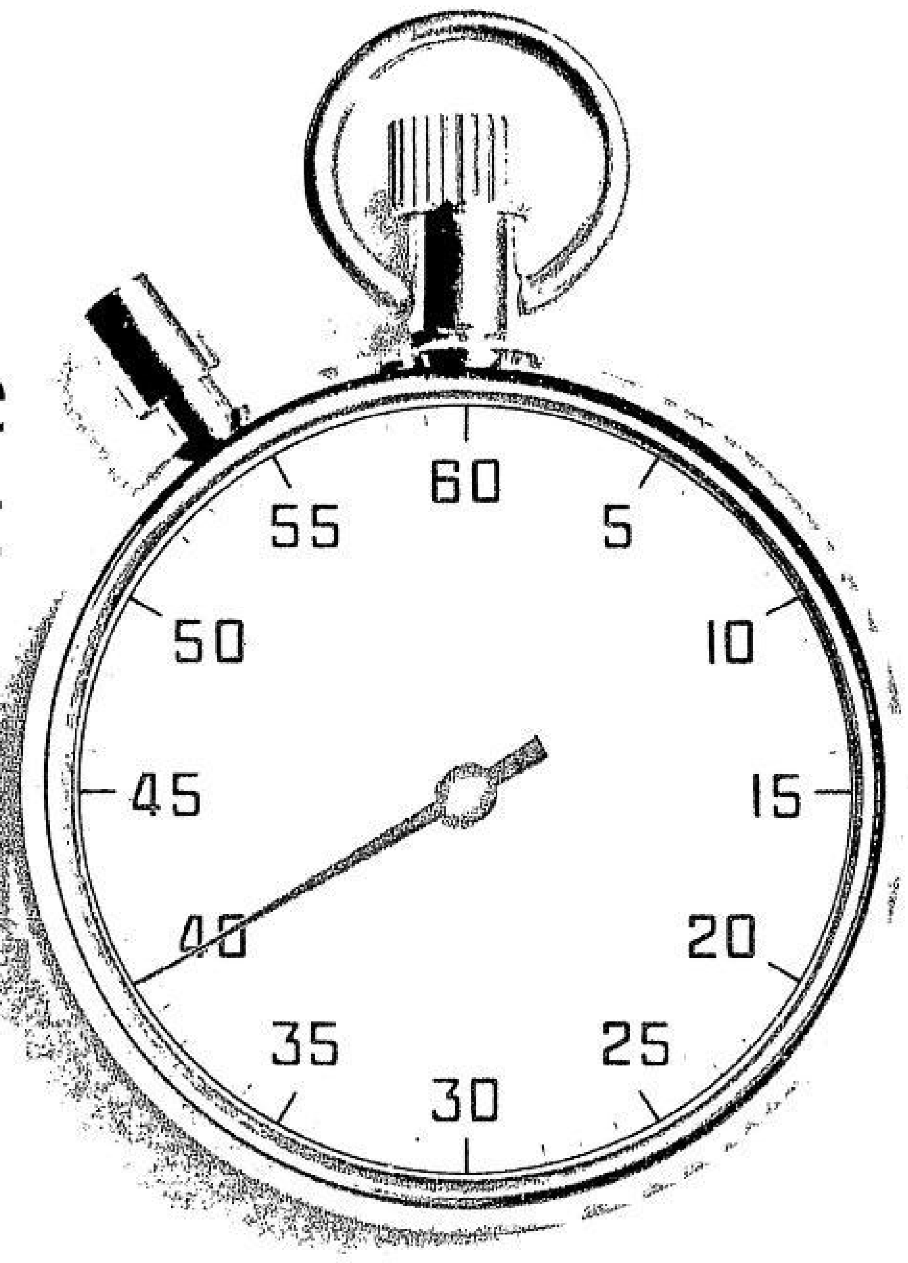
Participants may also wish to stay at the FDC dormitory with air-conditioned rooms that accommodate two persons per room. Room charge is P790.00 per room per day for double occupancy and P600 .00 per room per day for single occupancy. Please make checks payable to the Food Development Center, National Food Authority.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelia S. Bautista, Food Development Center, National Food Authority, FTI Complex, Taguig City at telephone nos. 838-4014; 838-4561; 838-4478 and Fax Nos. 838-4017 and 838-4692 .

JOB Market COMPACT JOB Market
Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.
Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

Prove yourself.

Pre-qualify in 40 minutes and get hired on the same day as a customer contact agent at Accenture!



Attend our career fair on January 24 – 25 in El Cielito Inn, Sta. Rosa, Laguna or take our online test today. Join Accenture by January 31 and receive a special P15,000.00 signing bonus.

We know the importance of creating the right environment for success. At Accenture, you can develop your skills faster than almost anywhere else. We're one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies and we help our clients become high-performance businesses. We're now building a customer contact services team in the Philippines and we want talented people to join us.

Customer Contact Agents.

We're looking for 4-year degree holders with excellent communications skills for our inbound and outbound contact center operations. Whether you are a call center professional, someone looking for a new challenge or a recent college graduate, get your career off to a great start.

As a customer contact agent for our ISP client, you will provide technical support and handle billing inquiries. For those with outbound or financial services experience, you can be part of a pioneer account performing outbound collections and inbound customer service for a UK based utilities company.

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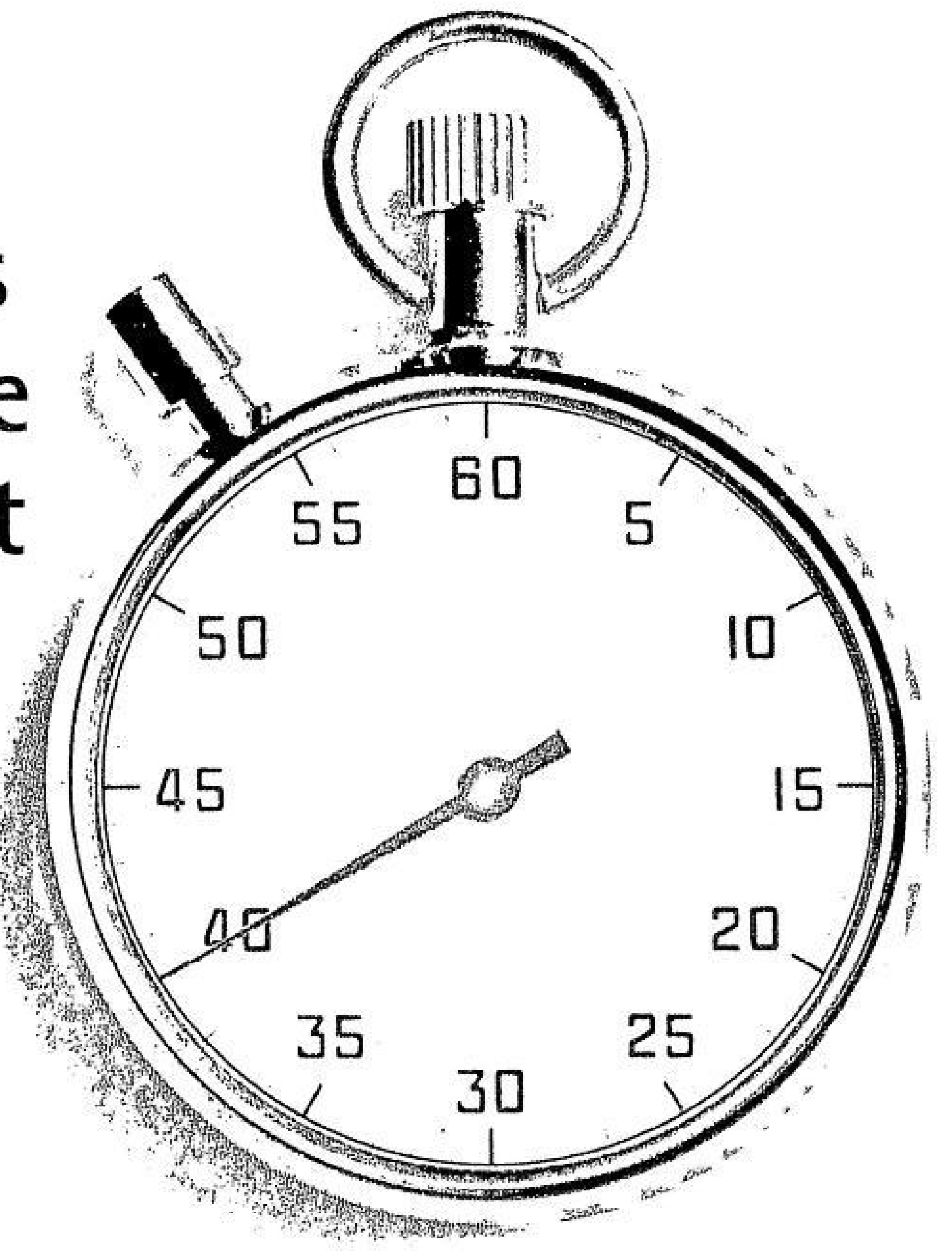

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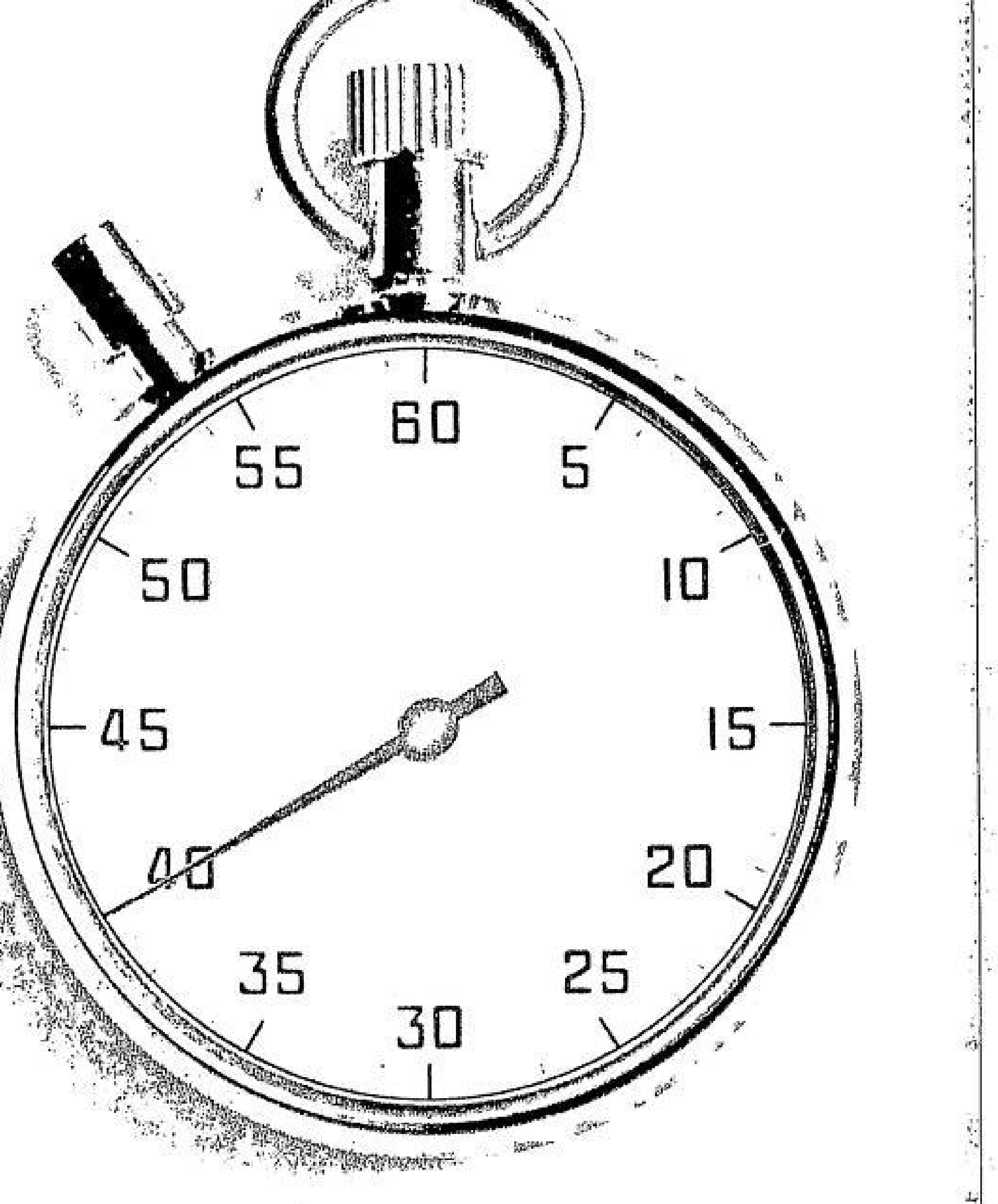

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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

JANUARY 21, 2007

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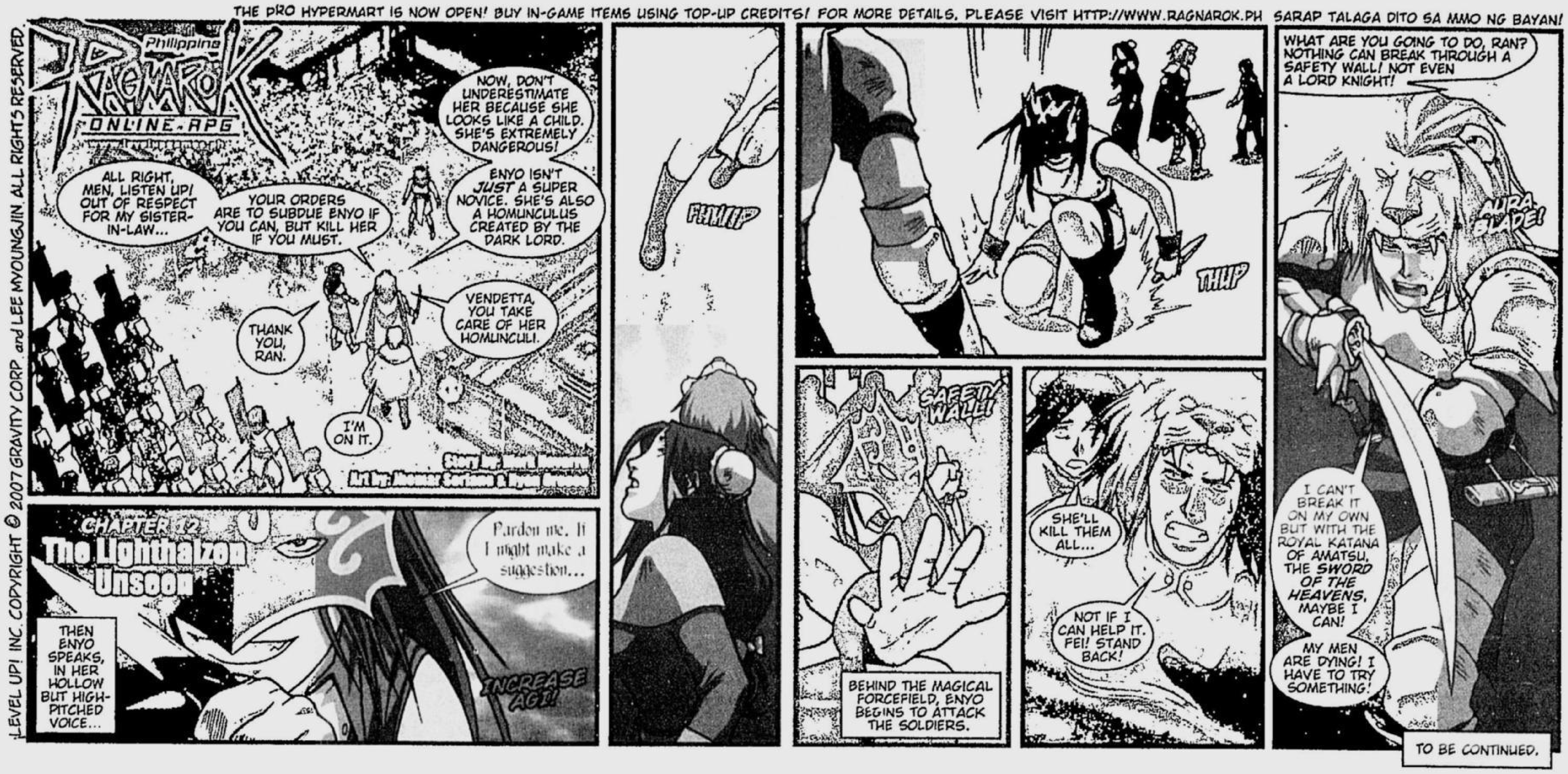
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES


THE PRO HYPERMART IS NOW OPEN! BUY IN-GAME ITEMS USING TOP-UP CREDITS! FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH SARAP TALAGA DITO SA MMO NG BAYAN!
Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
ALL RIGHT, MEN, LISTEN UP! OUT OF RESPECT FOR MY SISTER-IN-LAW...
YOUR ORDERS ARE TO SUBDUE ENYO IF YOU CAN, BUT KILL HER IF YOU MUST.
NOW, DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HER BECAUSE SHE LOOKS LIKE A CHILD. SHE'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!
ENYO ISN'T JUST A SUPER NOVICE. SHE'S ALSO A HOMUNCULUS CREATED BY THE DARK LORD.
THANK YOU, RAN.
VENDETTA, YOU TAKE CARE OF HER HOMUNCULI.
I'M ON IT.
CHAPTER 12
The Lighthalzen Unseen
THEN ENYO SPEAKS, IN HER HOLLOW BUT HIGH-PITCHED VOICE...
Pardon me. If I might make a suggestion...
INCREASE AGI!
FHWIP
THUP
SAFETY WALL!
BEHIND THE MAGICAL FORCEFIELD, ENYO BEGINS TO ATTACK THE SOLDIERS.
SHE'LL KILL THEM ALL...
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT. FEI! STAND BACK!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, RAN? NOTHING CAN BREAK THROUGH A SAFETY WALL! NOT EVEN A LORD KNIGHT!
AURA BLADE!
I CAN'T BREAK IT ON MY OWN BUT WITH THE ROYAL KATANA OF AMATSU, THE SWORD OF THE HEAVENS, MAYBE I CAN!
MY MEN ARE DYING! I HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING!
TO BE CONTINUED.

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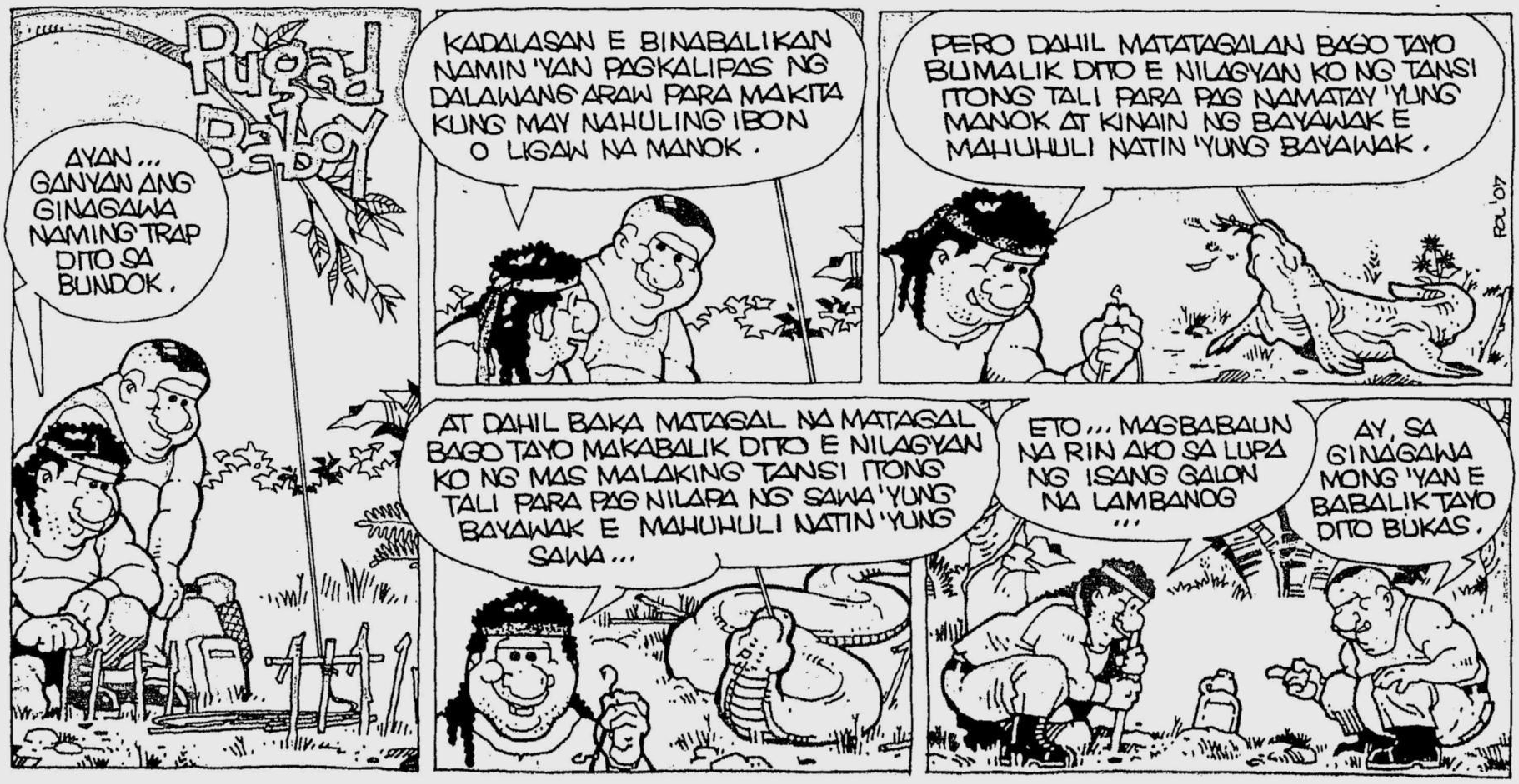
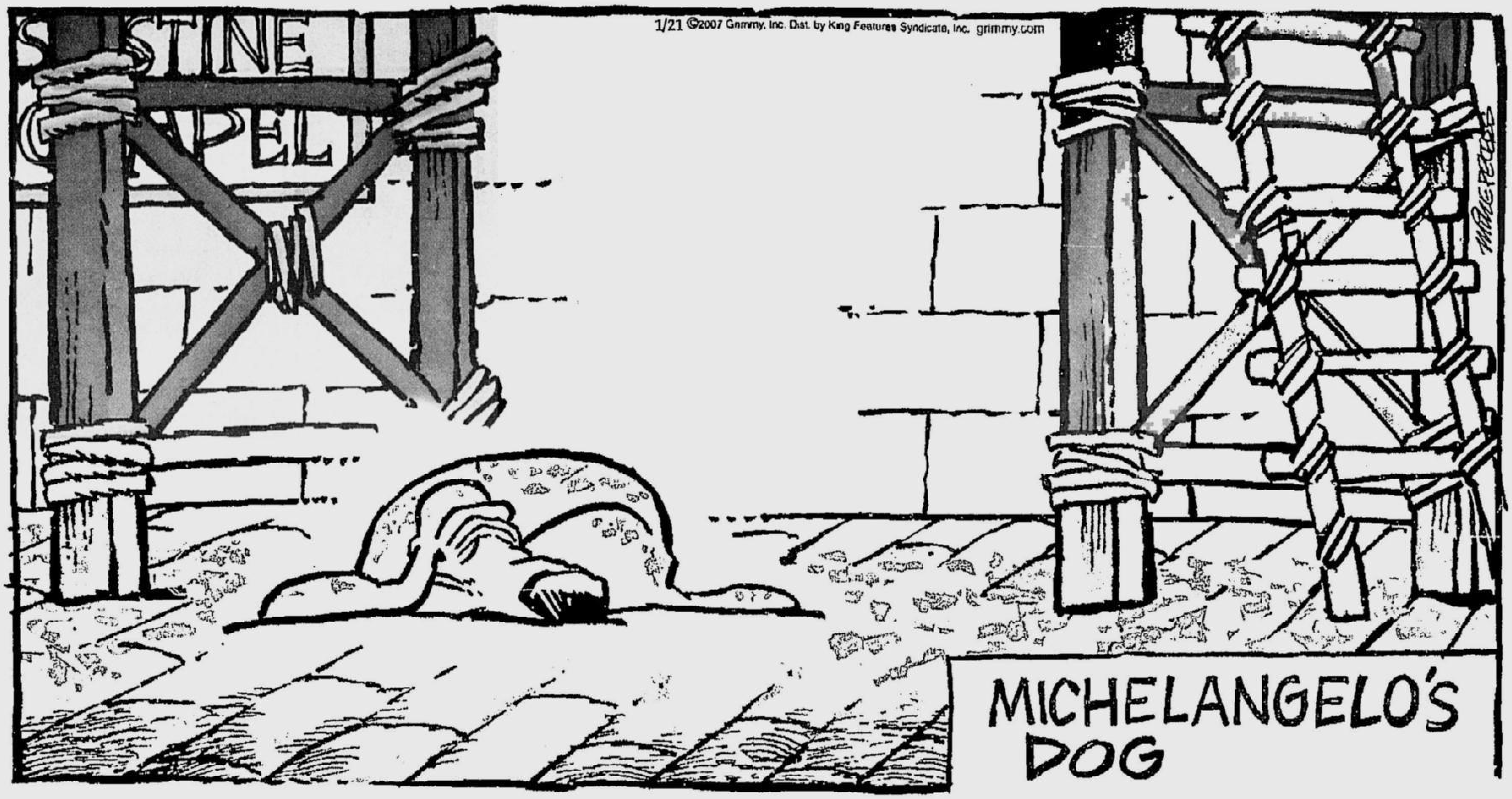
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
AYAN... GANYAN ANG GINAGAWA NAMING TRAP DITO SA BUNDOK.
KADALASAN E BINABALIKAN NAMIN 'YAN PAGKALIPAS NG DALAWANG ARAW PARA MAKITA KUNG MAY NAHULING IBON O LIGAW NA MANOK.
PERO DAHIL MATATAGALAN BAGO TAYO BUMALIK DITO E NILAGYAN KO NG TANSI ITONG TALI PARA PAG NAMATAY 'YUNG MANOK AT KINAIN NG BAYAWAK E MAHUHULI NATIN 'YUNG BAYAWAK.
POL '07
AT DAHIL BAKA MATAGAL NA MATAGAL BAGO TAYO MAKABALIK DITO E NILAGYAN KO NG MAS MALAKING TANSI ITONG TALI PARA PAG NILAPA NG SAWA 'YUNG BAYAWAK E MAHUHULI NATIN 'YUNG SAWA...
ETO... MAGBABAUN NA RIN AKO SA LUPA NG ISANG GALON NA LAMBANOG...
AY, SA GINAGAWA MONG 'YAN E BABALIK TAYO DITO BUKAS.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


STINE
APEL
MIKE PETERS
MICHELANGELO'S DOG

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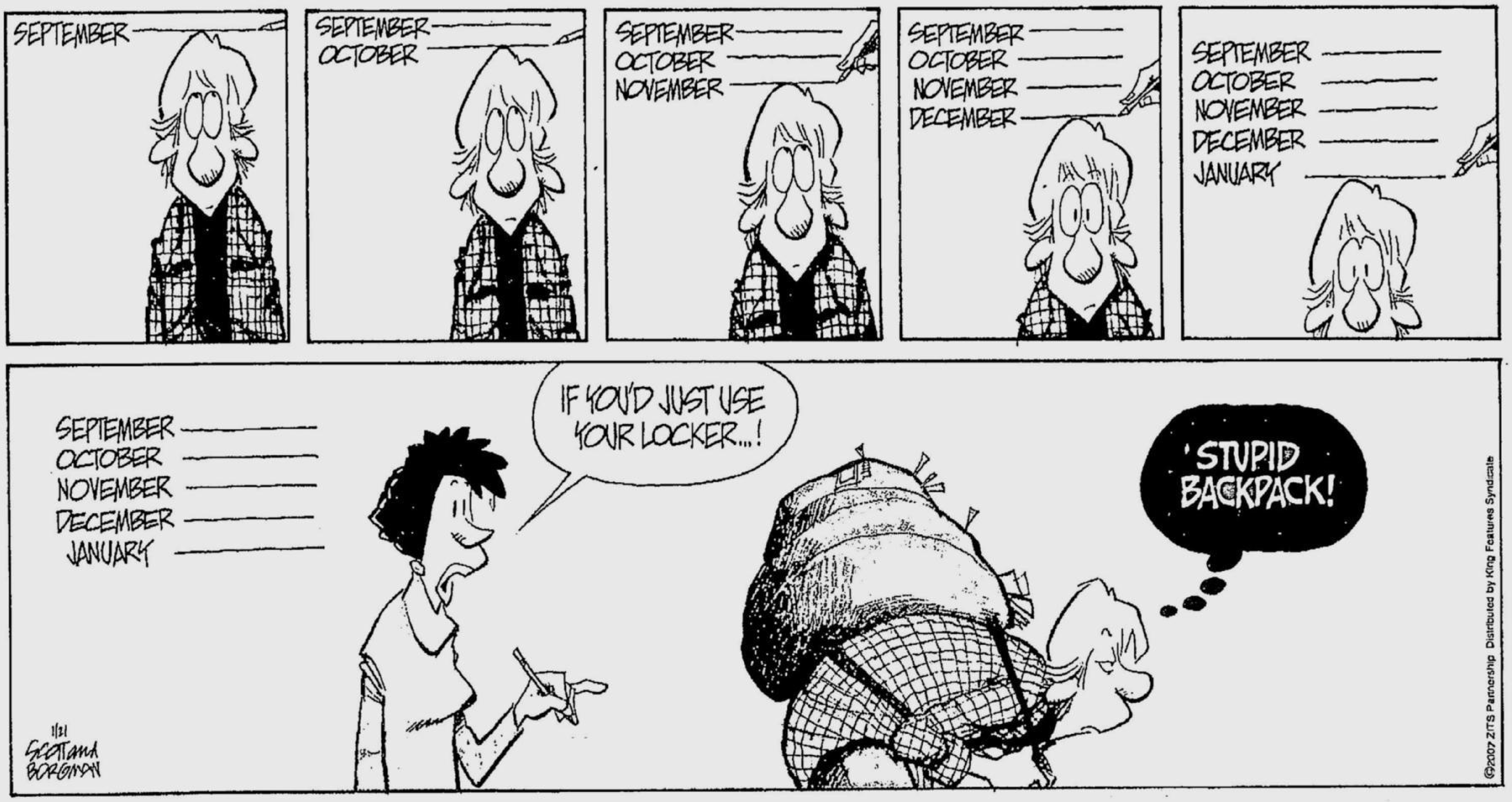
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SEPTEMBER
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
JANUARY
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
JANUARY
IF YOU'D JUST USE YOUR LOCKER...!
'STUPID BACKPACK!
1/21 SCOTT and BORGMAN

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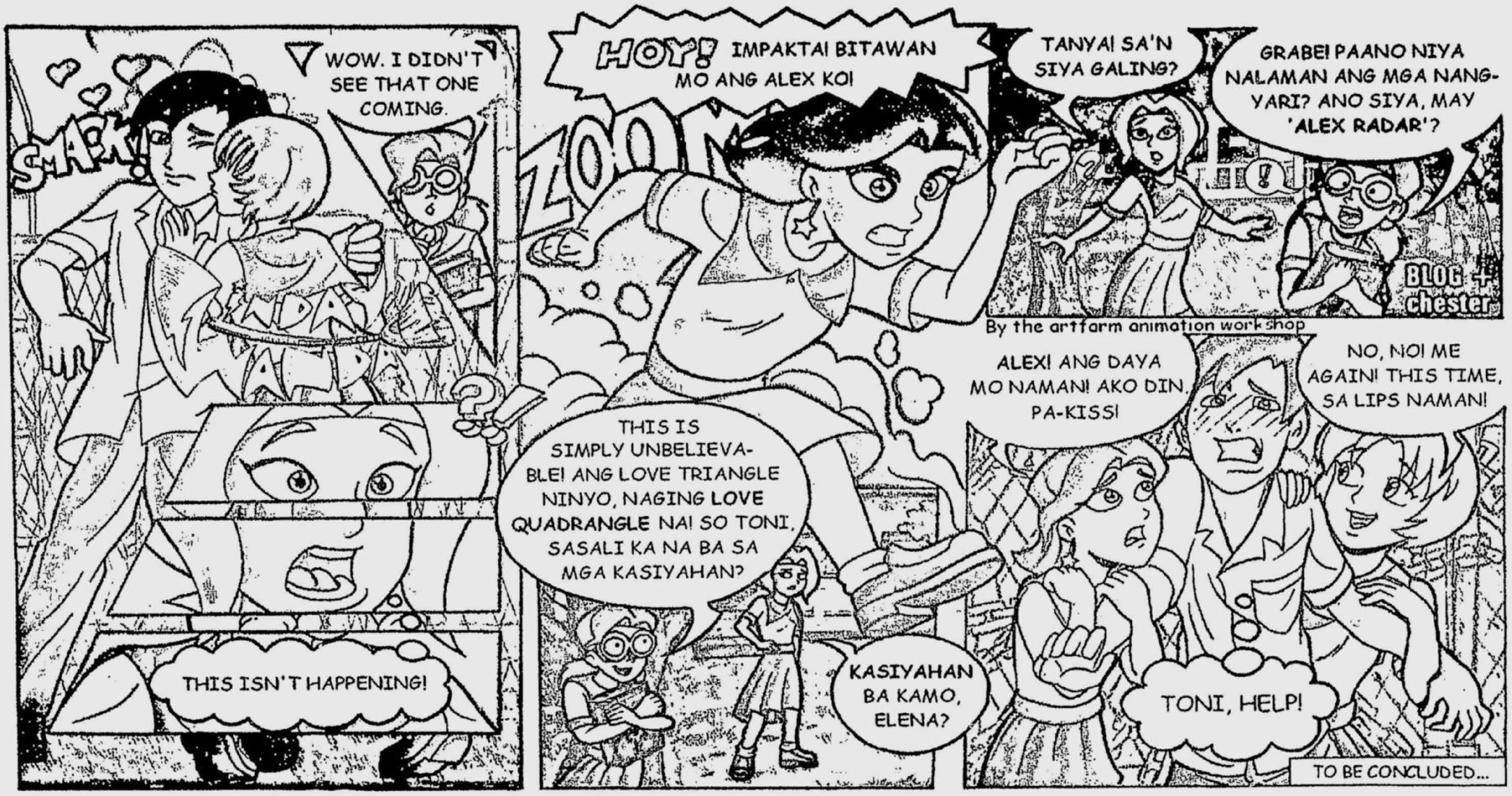
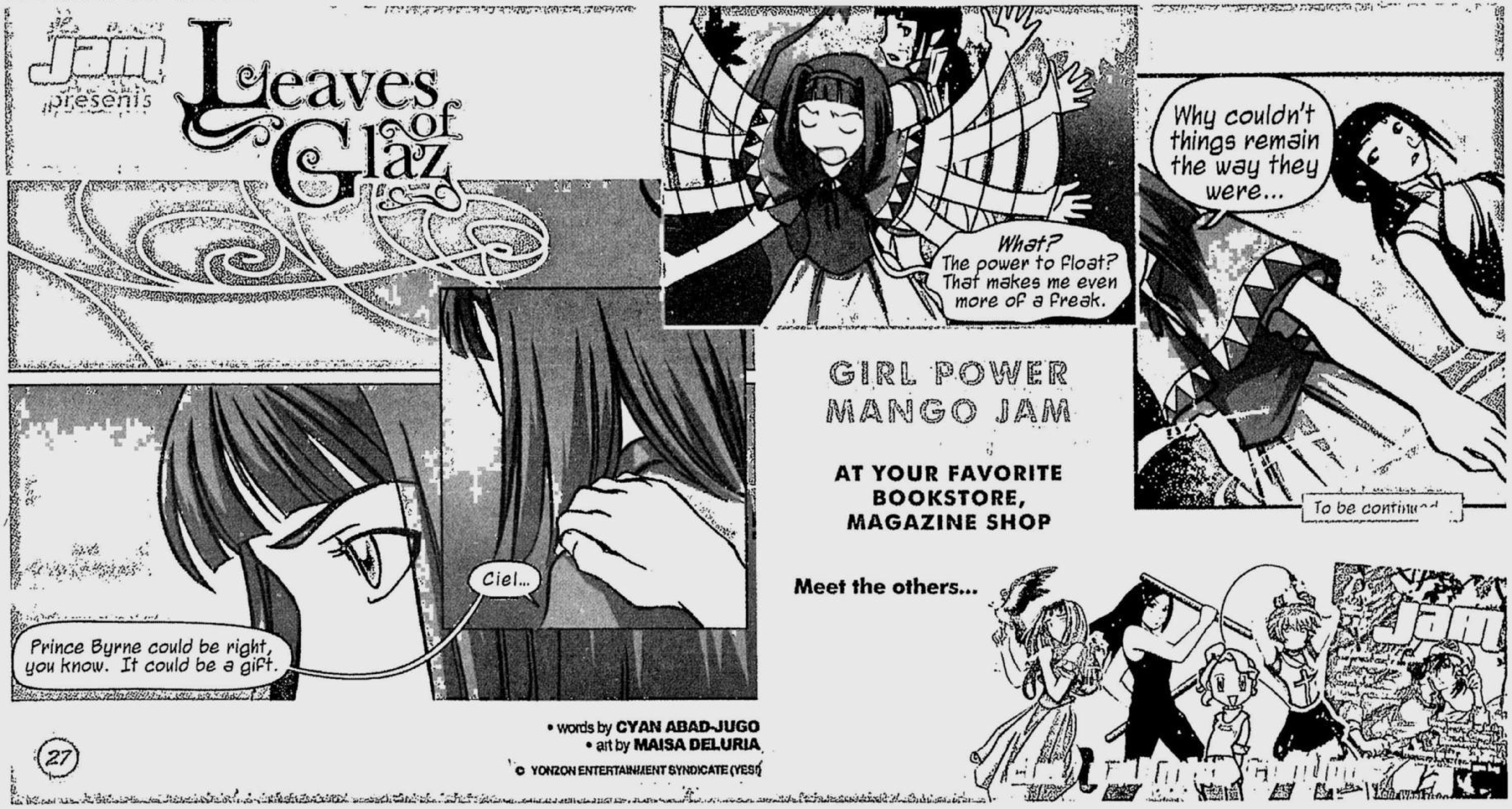
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


SMACK!
WOW. I DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING.
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!
HOY! IMPAKTA! BITAWAN MO ANG ALEX KO!
ZOOM
THIS IS SIMPLY UNBELIEVABLE! ANG LOVE TRIANGLE NINYO, NAGING LOVE QUADRANGLE NA! SO TONI, SASALI KA NA BA SA MGA KASIYAHAN?
KASIYAHAN BA KAMO, ELENA?
TANYA! SA'N SIYA GALING?
GRABE! PAANO NIYA NALAMAN ANG MGA NANGYARI? ANO SIYA, MAY 'ALEX RADAR'?
BLOG + chester
By the artfarm animation workshop
ALEX! ANG DAYA MO NAMAN! AKO DIN. PA-KISS!
NO, NO! ME AGAIN! THIS TIME, SA LIPS NAMAN!
TONI, HELP!
TO BE CONCLUDED...

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS


Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
Ciel...
Prince Byrne could be right, you know. It could be a gift.
What? The power to float? That makes me even more of a freak.
Why couldn't things remain the way they were...
To be continu

GIRL POWER
MANGO JAM

AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

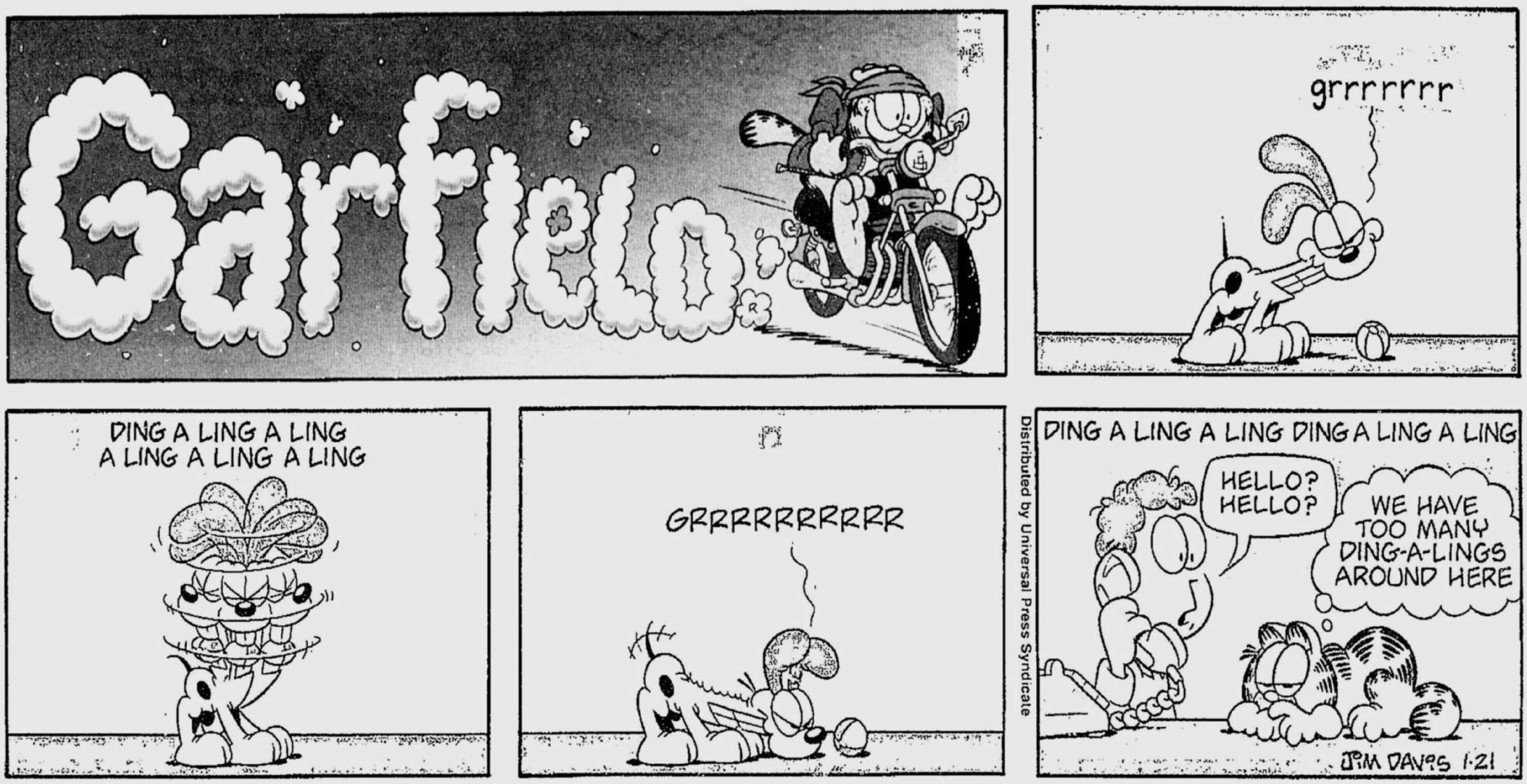
Meet the others...

• words by **CYAN ABAD-JUGO**
• art by **MAISA DELURIA**

© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)

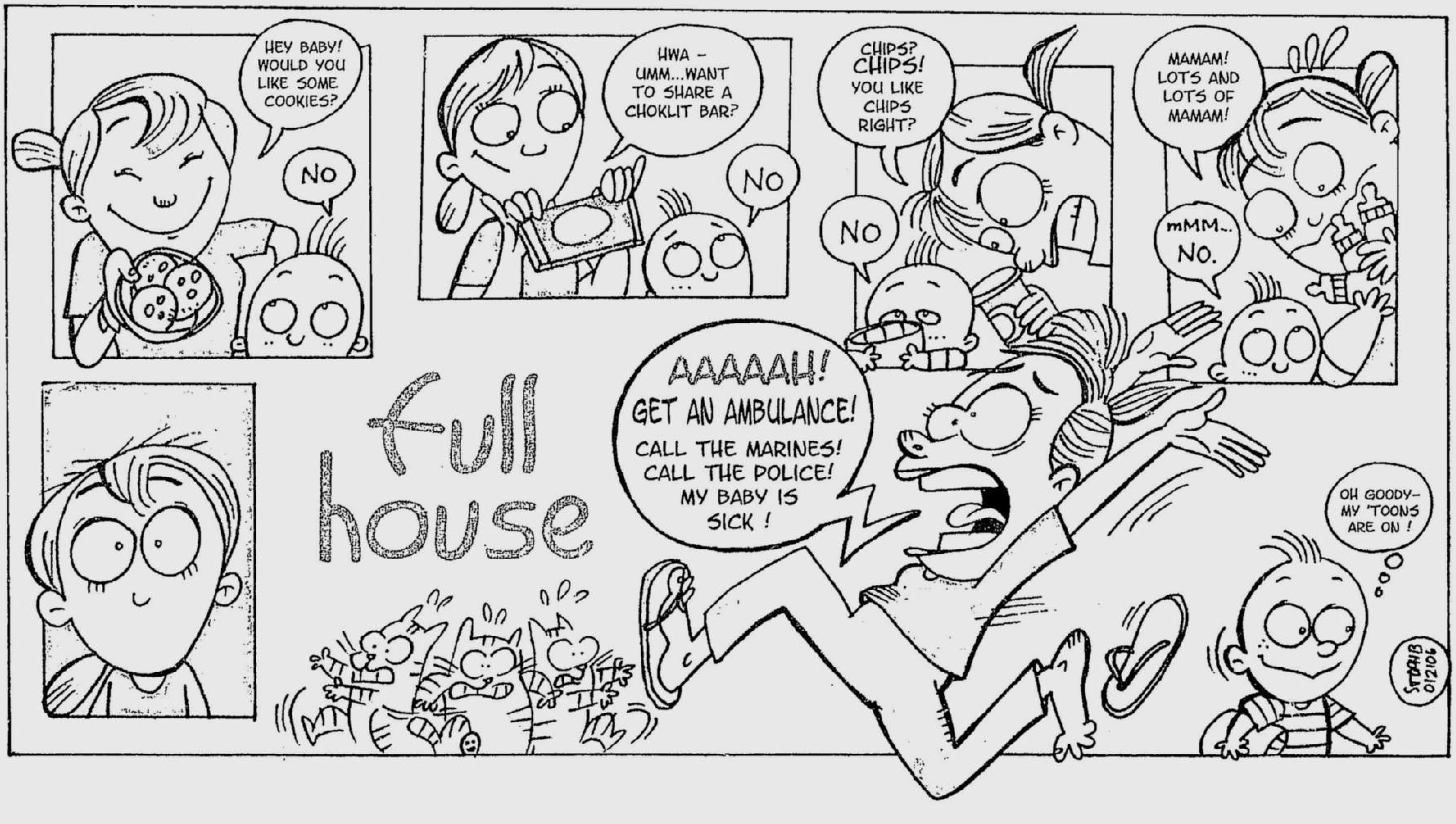
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


Garfield
grrrrrrr
DING A LING A LING A LING A LING A LING
GRRRRRRRRRR
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
DING A LING A LING DING A LING A LING
HELLO? HELLO?
WE HAVE TOO MANY DING-A-LINGS AROUND HERE
JIM DAVIS 1-21

FULL HOUSE

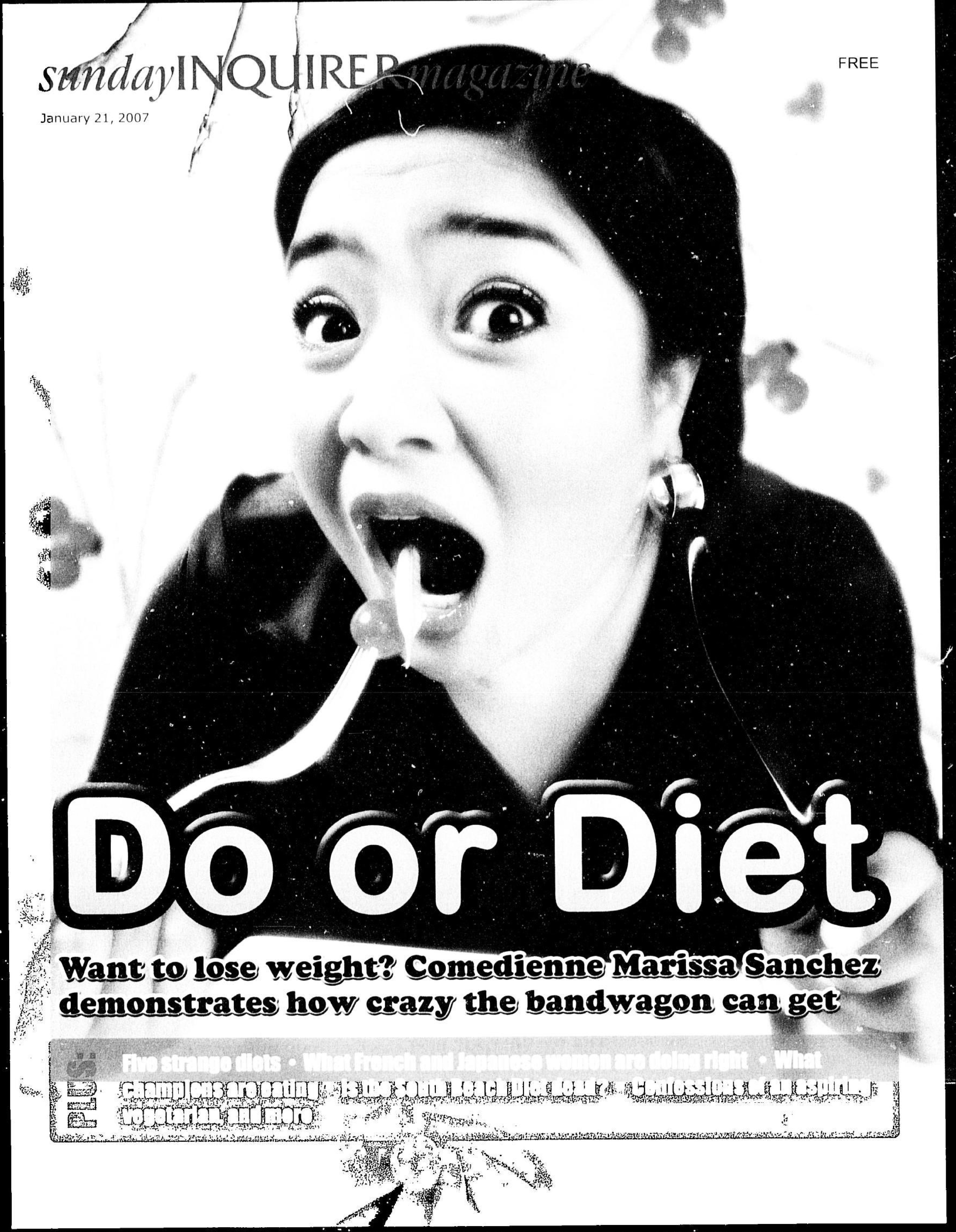
BY STEPH BRAVO


HEY BABY! WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COOKIES?
NO
HWA - UMM...WANT TO SHARE A CHOKLIT BAR?
No
CHIPS? CHIPS! YOU LIKE CHIPS RIGHT?
NO
MAMAM! LOTS AND LOTS OF MAMAM!
mMM.. NO.
full house
AAAAAH! GET AN AMBULANCE! CALL THE MARINES! CALL THE POLICE! MY BABY IS SICK !
OH GOODY- MY 'TOONS ARE ON !

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

January 21, 2007

FREE



Do or Diet

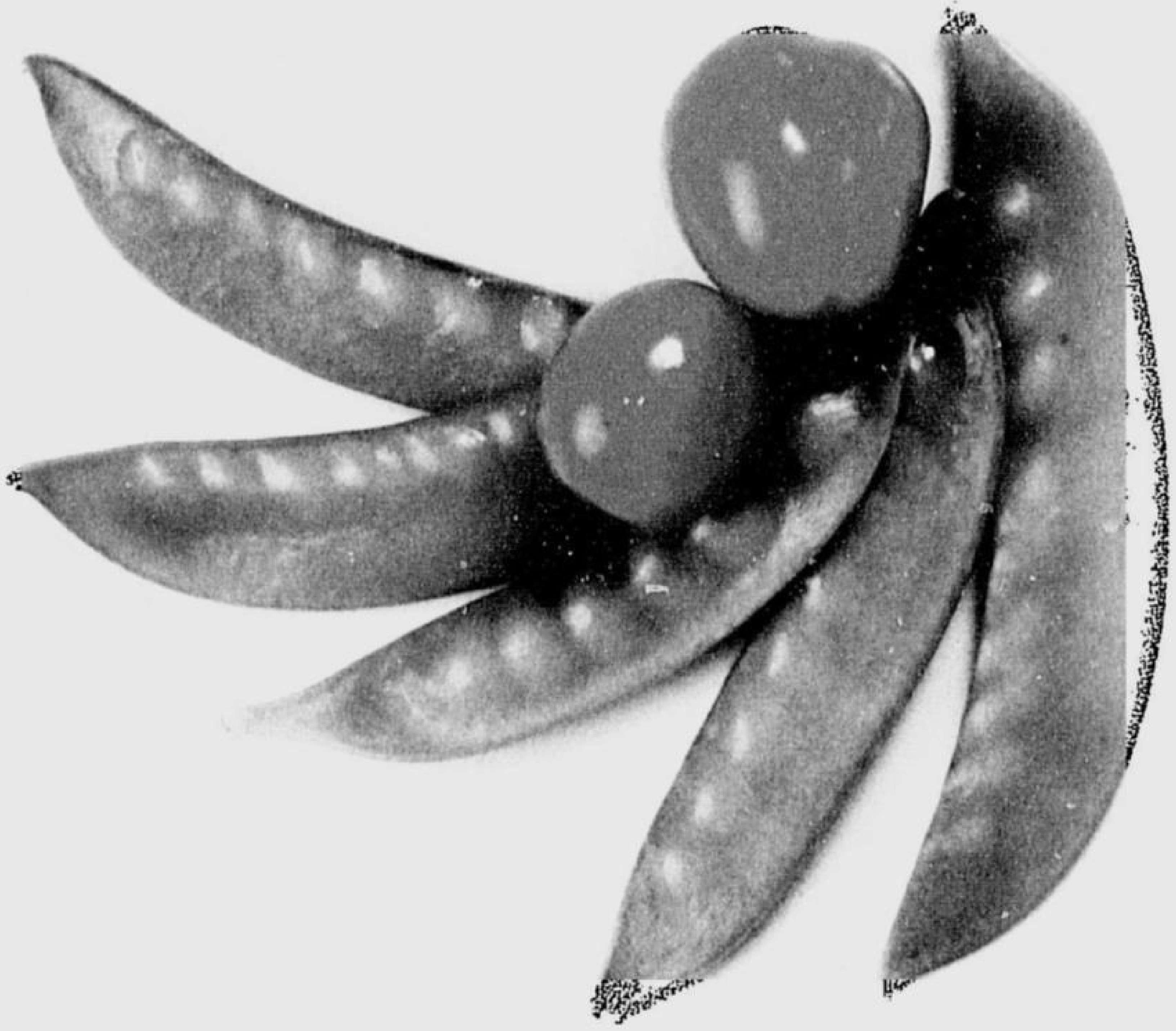
Want to lose weight? Comedienne Marissa Sanchez demonstrates how crazy the bandwagon can get

PLUS Five strange diets • What French and Japanese women are doing right • What champions are eating • Is the South Beach Diet dead? • Confessions of an aspiring vegetarian, and more

Compiled by Joy Rojas

That's a diet?

Eat like a caveman, or have breakfast for dinner? Here are five food regimens so surreal, they just might work



Color-coding is the guide to the Traffic Light Diet

Ernie Sarmiento

THE TRAFFIC LIGHT DIET

THE SKINNY: Food is assigned to one of the three colors of, well, the traffic light. Red foods are high in calories with few nutrients, yellow foods are reasonably high in calories but high in nutrients; and green foods are low in calories but highly nutritious.

ON THE MENU: Green foods include vegetables, white fish, seafood, and low-fat yogurt and milk. Potatoes, low-fat cheese, oily fish, lean meat, poultry, beans, nuts, seeds, rice, pasta, and high-fiber breads and cereals are considered yellow foods. Everything else falls under red foods.

THE PROMISE: If portion control is practiced, about a pound a week.

Breads are a no-no in the Paleolithic Diet

THE PALEOLITHIC DIET

THE SKINNY: Radiologist Dr. Boyd Eaten and exercise physiologist Dr. Loren Cordain strongly believe that we will live the healthiest on a diet similar to what people ate 2.5 million years ago during the hunter-gatherer days of the Paleolithic Era.

ON THE MENU: More low-fat proteins (lean meat, chicken, fish eggs, fruits, root vegetables, nuts except peanut and cashew) and healthy fats (canola and olive oil). Carbohydrates, like wheat, rice, corn and modern grains were not cultivated until 10,000 years ago, so breads, pasta, pancakes, and other processed carbs are not part of this eating plan. Ditto with potatoes, dairy products, beans, sugar and salt.

THE PROMISE: Besides losing a reported 75 lbs. in six months, optimum health is a perk of this diet. The Paleo diet is rich in vitamin C, fiber, calcium, iron, folate, and essential fatty acids; it also normalizes blood and cholesterol levels and increases energy stores.

THE CABBAGE SOUP DIET

THE SKINNY: No one has admitted to inventing this diet which has you consuming all the cabbage soup you can take for a week. Advocates appreciate cabbage's fiber content, while others like that the leafy green supposedly has fat-burning properties.

ON THE MENU: Aside from cabbage soup (made up of onions, tomatoes, green pepper, celery, and of course, cabbage), the week-long diet allows some fruit, skimmed milk, the on-and-off eating of bananas and potatoes, and beef which is introduced later in the week. Water and unsweetened fruit juice are the only beverages allowed.

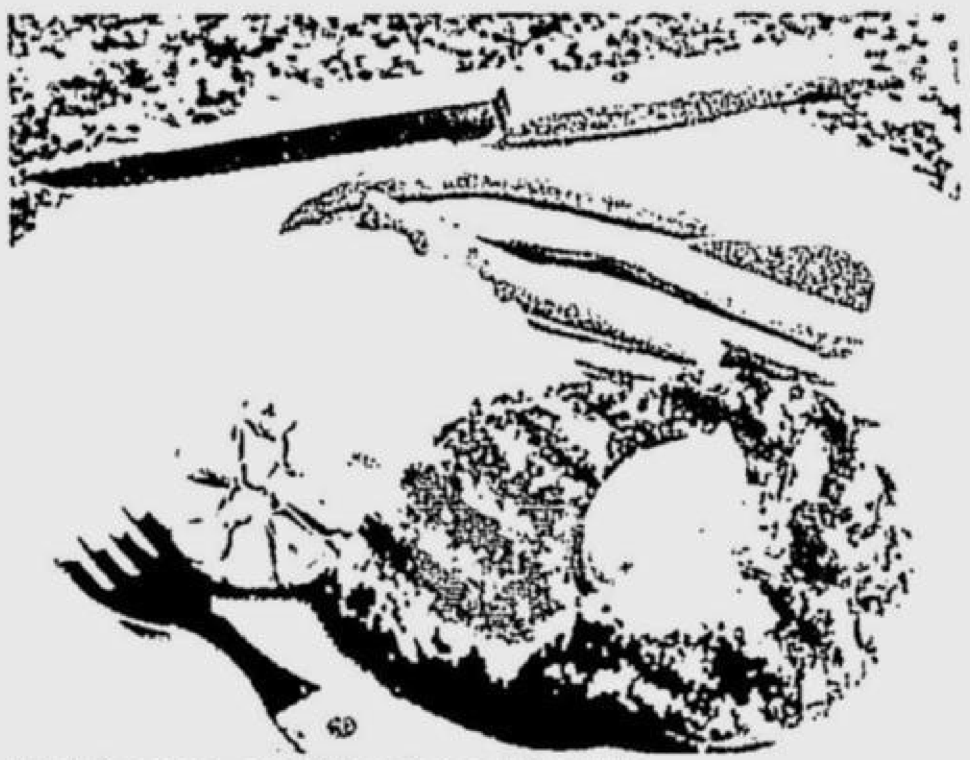
THE PROMISE: Case-to-case-basis weight loss, usually from water and muscle tissue.

THE REVERSE DIET

THE SKINNY: "Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, dinner like a pauper" is the premise of this diet where heavy dinner foods are eaten in the morning, while lighter breakfast-type fare is consumed at night.

ON THE MENU: Tricia Cunningham, who created the Reverse Diet in 1999, ate chicken and a baked potato for breakfast and oatmeal and orange juice for dinner.

THE PROMISE: Major weight loss. Cunningham, a hospital nurse and mom, dropped a whopping 170 lbs. from her 5'8", 292 lb. frame and has kept it off for seven years and counting—without the aid of exercise. Said to improve metabolism, body composition and energy, and over-all good health, Cunningham's diet was designed together with renowned nutritionist Heidi Skolnik.


Eat heavy stuff for breakfast in the Reverse Diet

NO CARBS AFTER 5 P.M. DIET

THE SKINNY: Also known as the Carb Curfew Diet, this 28-day eating plan requires you, as its name says, to end your carbohydrate consumption after 5 p.m. The rationale is that less carbs lower your overall calorie intake, while eating more protein at night helps you stay full.

ON THE MENU: Breakfast and lunch containing carbohydrates on the low end of the Glycemic Index. Dinner involves a main meal minus the carbs. Translated, that means bolognese sans spaghetti and stir fry without rice.

THE PROMISE: Five inches off your waist in 28 days. •

10 Great Health Foods

Feast on the fish—but watch what goes in the sauce

MARK Glen, a registered dietitian at Mayo Clinic, offers the following as your best bets when eating your way to good health:

1. **Apples**: An excellent source of pectin, a soluble fiber that can lower blood cholesterol and glucose levels, and of vitamin C, an antioxidant that also helps form the connective tissue collagen that keeps your capillaries and blood vessels healthy.

2. **Almonds**: Packed with nutrients—fiber, riboflavin, magnesium, iron and calcium. One serving of almonds provides half of your body's Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of vitamin E. And they're good for your heart. Most of the fat in almonds is monounsaturated fat that may help lower blood cholesterol levels.

3. **Blueberries**: A rich source of the plant compounds phytonutrients that may help prevent urinary tract infections. Blueberries may also improve short-term memory and promote healthy aging, aside from being a low-calorie source of fiber and vitamin C.

4. **Broccoli**: A good source of calcium, potassium, folate, fiber and phytonutrients that may help prevent heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. Broccoli is also a good source of vitamins A and C—antioxidants that protect your body's cells from damage.

5. **Red beans**: Good sources of iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, copper, thiamin and phytonutrients. They're also an excellent low-fat, low-calorie source of protein and dietary fiber.

6. **Salmon**: Low in saturated fat and cholesterol and is a good source of protein. Also an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, a type of fat that makes your blood less likely to form clots that may cause heart attacks.

7. **Spinach**: High in vitamins A and C and folate and a good source of riboflavin, vitamin B-6, calcium, iron and magnesium. The plant compounds in spinach may boost your immune system and may help keep your hair and skin healthy.

8. **Sweet potatoes**: High in the antioxidant beta carotene which may help slow the aging process and reduce the risk of some cancers. Sweet potatoes are also good sources of fiber, vitamins B-6, C and E, folate and potassium.

9. **Vegetable juice**: Has most of the vitamins, minerals and other nutrients found in the original vegetables and is an easy way to include vegetables in your diet. Also good sources of lycopene, an antioxidant which may reduce the risk of heart attack, prostate cancer and possibly other types of cancer.

10. **Wheat germ**: Though only a small part of the wheat seed, the germ is a highly concentrated source of nutrients, including niacin, thiamin, riboflavin, vitamin E, folate, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, iron and zinc. The germ also contains protein, fiber and some fat. •

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By Margaux Salcedo

Green Cuisine

The Farm at San Benito offers a great way to clean up your act and turn vegan- -if you're ready for it

A variety of fruit and vegetable shakes complement a healthy diet

I'M driving on the highway to heaven, I thought to myself as I drove alone on the Star Tollway. Guiding the highway were coconut plantations, and straight ahead were fogged mountains. The road appeared to stretch to forever. I was making my way to The Farm at San Benito in Batangas, and as I approached the marker that read "Welcome to Baranggay Tipakan," I laughed and shook my head in disbelief as I realized that I had just traveled three hours to experience raw food.

My doubts were somewhat allayed by the sign that greeted me as I drove past the cemented zigzag that is the final stretch to this end-of-the-world destination. It enumerates The Farm's awards as a spa center, and as you enter the site, you immediately see why. The place is a beautiful sanctuary, a real getaway. Walking to the Vegan Restaurant, which I came for, you pass a small man-made pond that is home to a very regal black swan that makes you pause and wonder where you are.

At the Vegan restaurant, I was greeted by a very pleasant German manager named Christian Knoeppel, who clarified that although they offer a strict diet of juices and salads for guests who are on a detoxification program, they do also offer cooked food for other guests, such as myself, who may be at The Farm just for the day. Everything, of course, strictly vegan.

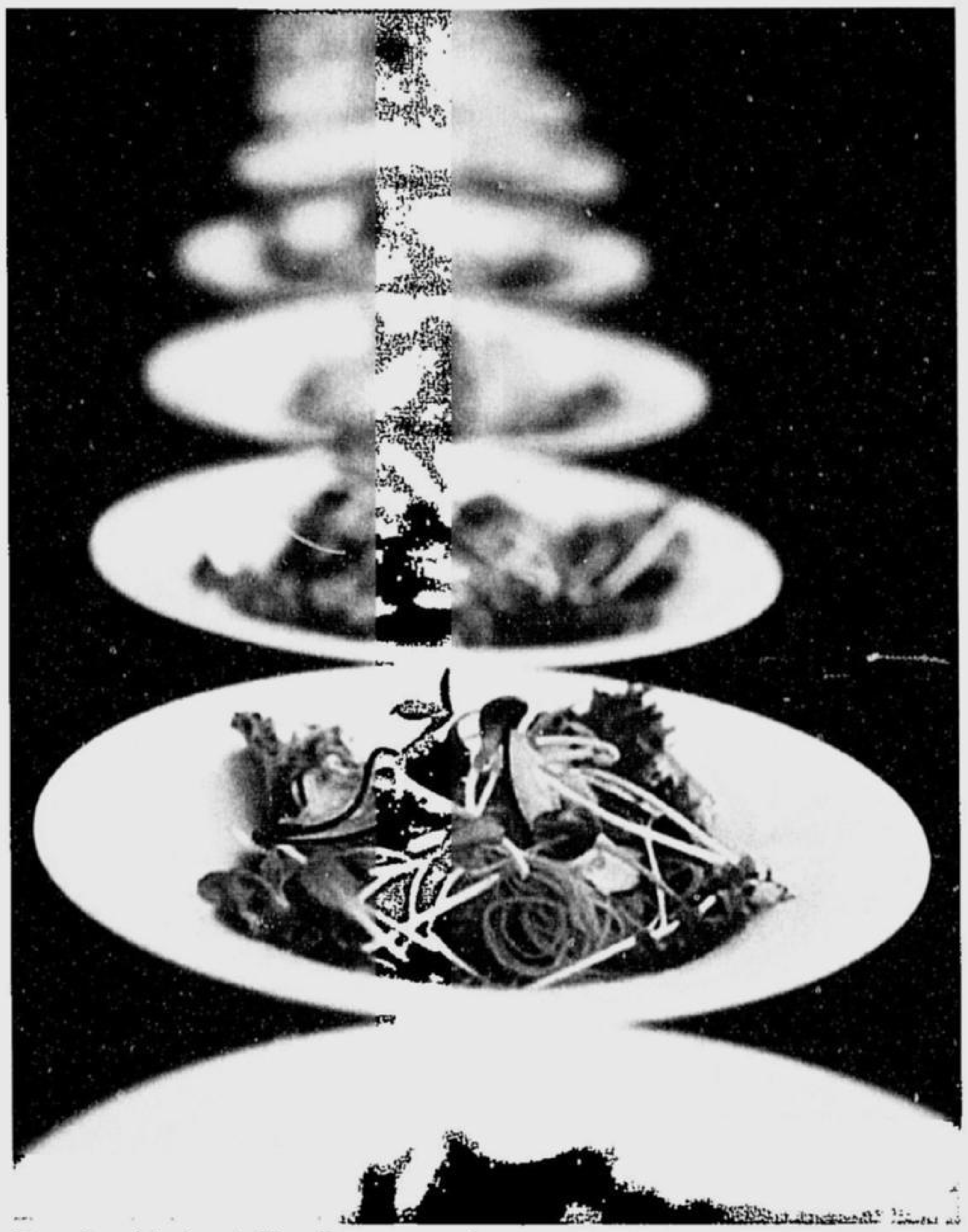
For those new to the concept, a vegan is a strict vegetarian who lives by a philosophy that rejects the use of animal and animal products for food, clothing, and pretty much everything. So as opposed to a semi-vegetarian, who can still enjoy creatures of the sea while giving up pork and beef, or a lacto-ovo vegetarian, who can still enjoy dairy products while giving up pork, beef and seafoods, a vegan's menu would have absolutely no animal products. Absolutely means no meat, no fish, no poultry; and worse, no eggs, no dairy products. So I was very curious to see how they survived with what was left in the world that they could eat.

For starters, there was—you guessed it—salad. I helped myself to a salad buffet that was quite impressive, an offering of different cuisines: there was a Mexican salad, a rice tomato salad, sayote salad, and Indian sweet potato salad, among others. "I like to play with different cuisines because I am concerned not just with health but also with the food's taste, flavor, and texture," explained Felix Schoener, The Farm's German chef who has been a vegan for five years now. Indeed, a bite into any of the salads will give you an explosion of flavors, which made my introduction to vegan food really pleasant.

Then the waiter came over to begin a set menu that included a raw appetizer, cooked soup, a raw entrée, a cooked second entrée, and raw dessert. The appetizer, Spinach and Cilantro Flan with Smoked Pepper Chili Sauce, looked very appetizing. It was a green flan served in a martini glass and topped with spicy cashew nuts. Expecting another strong infusion of cilantro, my heart sank as it found the flan to taste like ... Gerber. Gerber in a martini glass. I had all of two teaspoonsful. The chili sauce was a clever decoy, though. It makes you think you are eating more than you really are!

At this point, Christian came over and asked how I was enjoying my meal. Not one to be less than candid, I blurted out in the most charming way possible, "How do you ... live?" To which he laughed and replied, "Well, I'm very healthy."

A vegan of four years, he spoke of the benefits of eating raw food. To be considered raw, food is not heated beyond 42° Celsius (the maximum temperature varies among the different forms of the diet, from 33°C to 48°C)



Raw food is best, The Farm preaches

because at this point the enzymes in food are killed. Enzymes, Christian said, are important because these aid digestion; without these, the body must depend on its own enzyme production to digest food, and this somehow leads to toxicity in the body, excess consumption of food, and eventually obesity and chronic disease. This is the reason, he explained, why we feel sluggish after eating a heavy, processed meal. He said that after trying the raw food diet, he was able to work longer hours and focus better on tasks at hand. With such conviction in his dreamy gray eyes, I was convinced to give up processed foods forever. Health is wealth! I decided to give the cilantro flan another shot… but no, it was still Gerber. There is really only one flan, I thought to myself, and her name is Leche.

The entrée, however, redeemed the baby food. It was Adobo Style Mushroom with Almond Corn Tostados, Onion Relish and Sour Crème. The tostados is a very thin crust made of coconut meat, corn and almond nuts. Then the mushroom plus some red and yellow bell pepper is cooked adobo-style. This is something I would have as an appetizer in a regular restaurant. It was sufficiently chewy and not just gooey, and surprisingly very filling. I honestly liked it.

The next part of the menu contained faux meat made of wheat flour called seiten (as in "sigh!"-tun) to create a sandwich. Chef Felix explained that this is for people who are in their transition period from carnivore to vegan. Rebound meat, I laughed to myself. Kudos to Chef Felix for lathering it with flavor, but there is still nothing like the real thing.

Dessert, thankfully, pulled through with the real thing. Called Tropical Fajitas, it was a fruit salad on wafer. Probably because all the fruits were organic (or maybe because the previous meal was fake meat), the distinct flavor of each fruit was really emphasized. I also liked the chef's addition of honey and hint of lime juice. It was a wonderful dessert. I could have consumed five servings of it.

Even with this blissful dessert, though, completely giving up animals and animal products seems too much of a challenge, too drastic a lifestyle change, for someone who grew up with the concept of a food chain. But the advocacy at The Farm is pushed very gently. "You can start with simply having some greens, some salads, once a week, maybe even once a month," Chef Felix said. "It's not about taking out items from your diet but about adding more—adding more greens, adding organic produce."

This Spa Cuisine, as Chef Felix calls it, is also something you can practice from your very own home. He suggests starting with a green shake. "Just put spinach and some fruits in a blender, and there you have your power shake." Well, it may work for you.

Truth be told, The Farm really is a kind of heaven for vegans because Chef Felix really does his best to make the vegan experience as pleasurable as possible. For the rest of us, well, it's an experience, a wake-up call to a healthier lifestyle, and maybe a pleasant start. •

Some produce is grown on site

Figure It Out

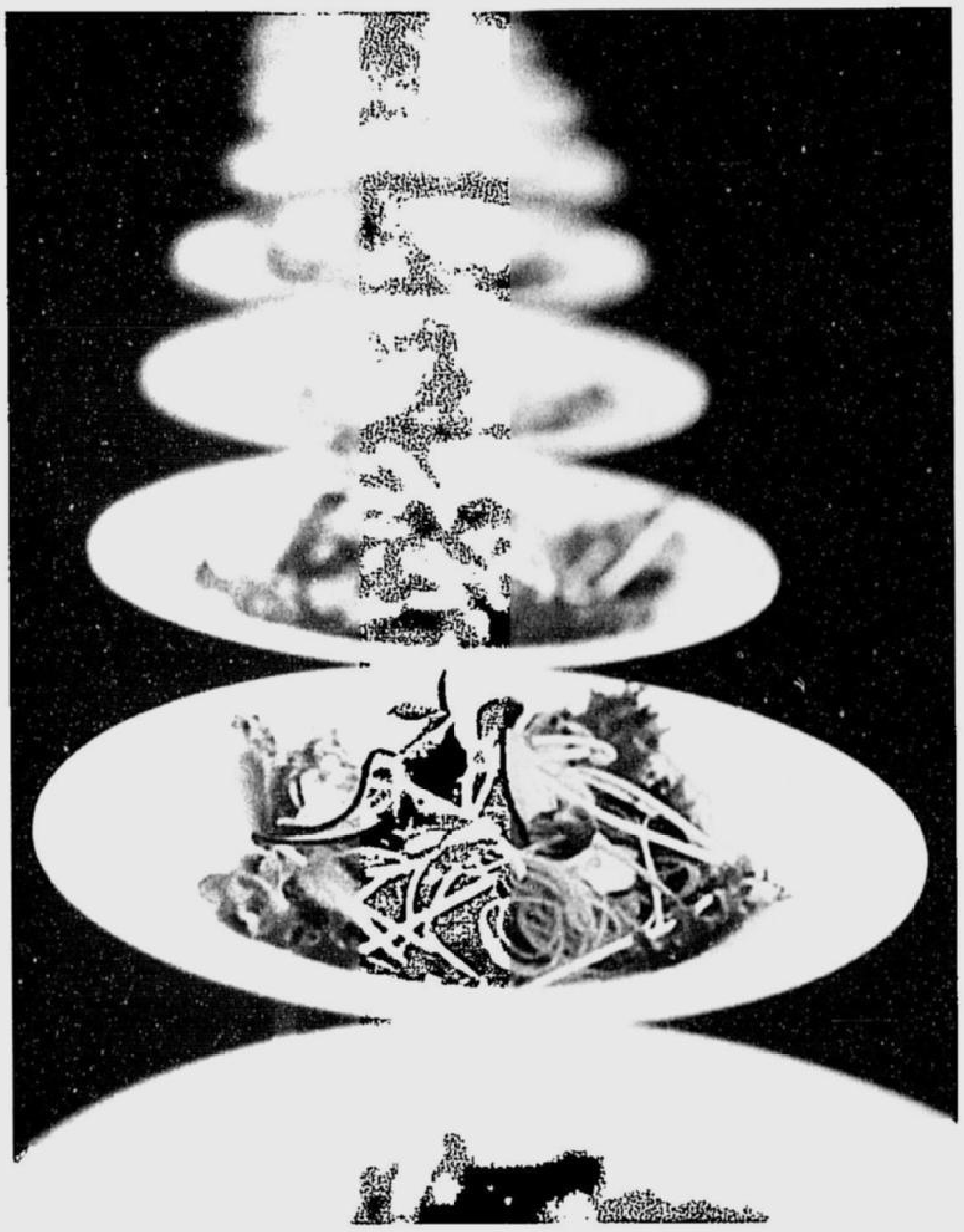
P3,640: What a Filipino family of four spends in a month to meet its minimum food requirements

296: Number of calories in a 64-gram packet of instant noodles

5 to 8 million: Estimated number of Filipinos afflicted with diabetes

9th: Rank of the Philippines among countries with the most number of diabetics

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research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The Skinny on French and Japanese Women's Diets

Here are the bare-bones facts on why French women stay slim despite all that baguette, butter and wine, and why Japanese women can live up to a hundred

"LET them eat cake," Marie Antoinette famously told the French once, and they've been doing just that, plus putting away baguettes, cheese, foie gras and champagne like another revolution's brewing tomorrow. Yet the French paradox remains: How can these folk indulge in three- to four-course meals and still have one of the lowest rates of coronary disease and body fat ratio in the world?

In "French Women Don't Get Fat," Mireille Guiliano, CEO and director of Champagne Veuve Clicquot, reveals how French women manage to remain svelte despite their mealtime indulgences. Basically, it's not what they eat, but how they eat. French women eat well, she notes; they savor every bite of their food, chewing and enjoying every morsel slowly so that even a small portion gives great satisfaction. This also means that they take time to sit down to a meal instead of wolfing down food while watching television or scrolling down their e-mail. Guiliano even suggests putting down utensils between bites while mentally describing to yourself what you're tasting.

Have some rituals around food, she suggests. Never eat out of a carton, but use real plates and napkins to stress the seriousness of the activity. Setting the table can be as important as preparing the food, she says. "It focuses the mind on what lies ahead and whets the appetite, opening it to a fuller experience." To make eating even more pleasurable, go for quality, like freshness, instead of convenience foods. Buy fruits and vegetables in season to enjoy their goodness at its peak.

Portion control is important. "French women know that the pleasure of most things is in the first few bites; we rarely have seconds." To make this easier, don't stock up on foods you're likely to overeat, like nuts and sweets. Go for moderation instead of excess, says Guiliano, who learned the secrets to eating well after looking "like a sack of potatoes" following a year of being an exchange student in the US.

Wine helps in digestion—and in the enjoyment of your meal

Balance and variety works too, the book says. Try out different foods instead of being stuck in a rut and resorting to chips and snacks for novelty. Experiment with seasonings, herbs and spices "to train yourself to register more flavors and appreciate them."

A little indulgence doesn't hurt, either. "Deprivation is the mother of failure," Guiliano states, and decrees a day of rest when your body can enjoy a civilized share of your favorites. It's alright to reward yourself with food, she notes, "but make sure the food is rewarding: not junk but quality food, respectfully savored." Another secret to slimming down is yogurt, she adds, as it contains millions of live bacteria that are vital to one's digestive well-being.

Drink plenty of water; you simply can't have too much of it, says the author. "If there's a fountain of youth, it's flowing with pure H2O," she adds. And of course, where would the French be without wine? Fine wine, says Guiliano, contains less calories than most alcoholic drinks and has nutrients that are recognized to thin the blood and lower blood pressure and bad cholesterol.

Now how do the French move all that goodness into the right places? By moving. A lot. "Walking is an essential part of the French way of life," says Guiliano, adding that French women walk three times as much as the average American and think nothing of climbing six flights of stairs, since most buildings in France are old and have no elevators. When walking, pay attention as well to posture and breathing, the author urges, "as these will improve the meditative value of walking."

But by far the best exercise—and here, there's bound to be no debate—is sex, "a great anti-ageing

Mireille Guiliano
French Women Don't Get Fat

formula with no side effects," says Guiliano. Sex also has cardiovascular effects, reduces stress and improves the mood. "The right frame of mind is vital to contentment, diminishing the urge for excess," she adds.

Even better than sex, says Guiliano, is being in love, and "nothing promotes the continued spontaneity of love than laughter." The secret to eating well and looking good, she says, is living well and being happy. "The French woman understands intuitively that one does not laugh because one is happy; one is happy because one laughs. It's both a physical and psychic pleasure; it is relaxing, stimulating, liberating and sensual." The physical act of laughing elevates our mood, improves blood circulation and burns calories, she adds quite unnecessarily, like we need an excuse to enjoy ourselves.

But if *joie de vivre* seems to be the key to the French paradox, austere living seems to do it for the Japanese. In "Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat" (P945, National Book Store), Naomi Moriyama sums up, rather smugly, the secrets to eating one's way to a long unwrinkled life in Japan: plenty of fish, tofu and unsweetened tea; more vegetables and less red meat, rice instead of bread, less sodium and more whole grains, and canola or rice bran oil for cooking.

Oh yes, the book also argues in favor of smaller portions, eating and chewing slowly, food presentation, and walking.

JAPANESE WOMEN DON'T GET OLD OR FAT
Secrets of My Mother's Tokyo Kitchen
NAOMI MORIYAMA
& WILLIAM DOYLE

As in Guiliano's book, Moriyama also shares family recipes, personal anecdotes and healthy cooking tips that showcase the use of recommended foods, as well as an extensive checklist on the equipment, ingredients and paraphernalia one would need to turn Japanese—at least in one's kitchen. **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**

The Seven Pillars of Japanese Cooking

FISH: A good source of omega 3 fatty acids, which lowers the risk of having a heart attack or stroke. Also protects against Alzheimer's disease, rheumatoid arthritis and several forms of cancer. Contains selenium, iodine and certain antioxidants.

VEGETABLES: High-fiber, high-water complex of carbohydrates that keep people's weight under control; comes fully equipped with vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals. Low calorie and low fat.

RICE: A rich source of complex carbohydrates, has little or no sodium, saturated fats or trans fat.

SOY, often in the form of tofu: Supplies all the essential amino acids that the body needs. Similar in quality to meat protein but without the saturated fat.

NOODLES: Usually of buckwheat, a good source of protein, fiber, whole grains and complex carbohydrates.

TEA: Green tea has been touted to fight cancer, lower cholesterol, protect the heart and burn fat. Also said to lower blood pressure, fight diabetes, delay Alzheimer's and fight allergies.

FRUIT: Contains high fiber, vitamin C, folate and potassium. Low in calories, helps control blood pressure, reduces risk of stroke and certain cancers.

(Source: "Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat")

Mireille Guiliano

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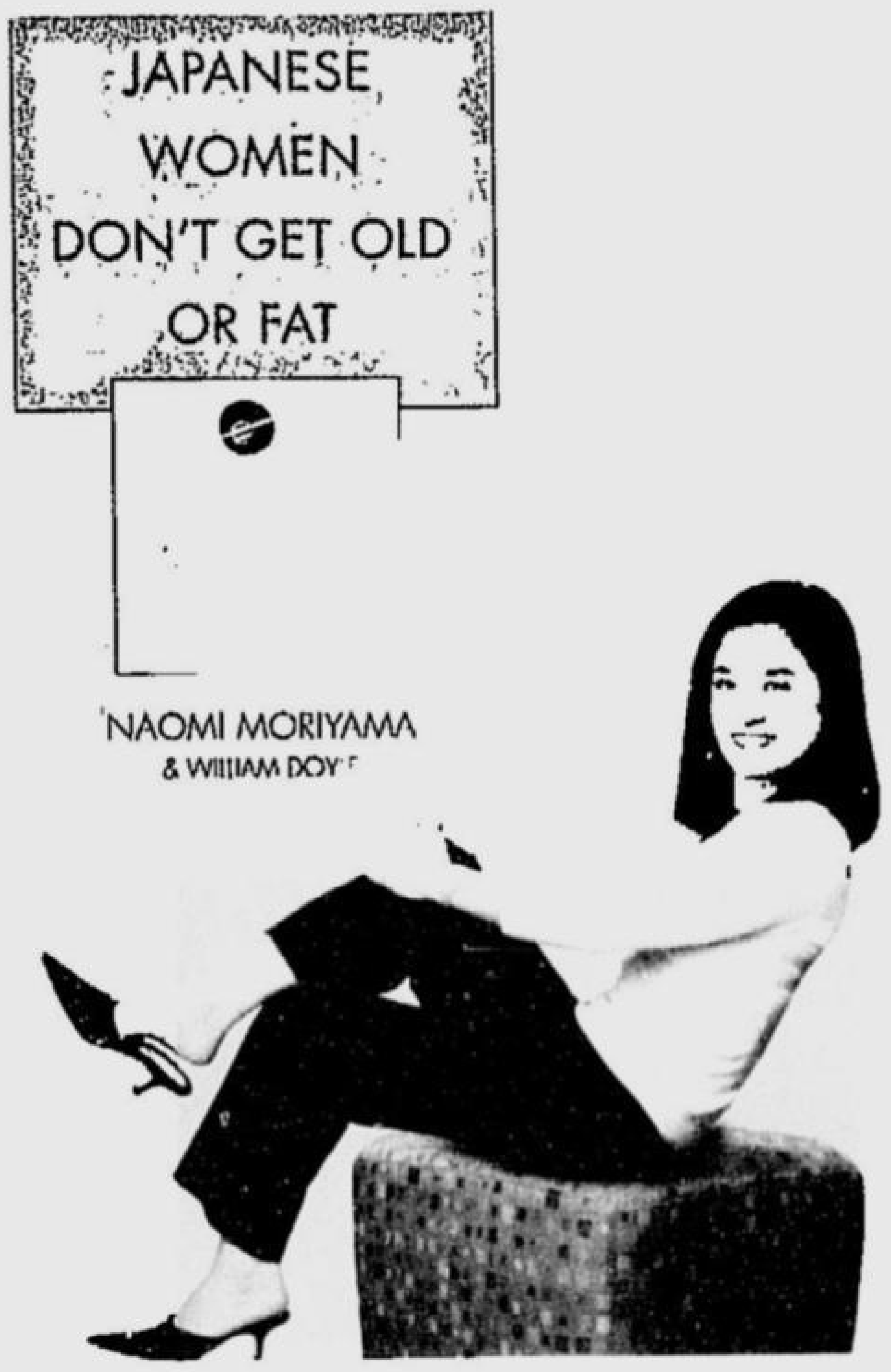
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By Alya B. Honasan

From Voluptuous to Versatile

Now that she's made a name for herself as a comedienne, Marissa Sanchez is hoping fans won't mind if she slims down– –and explores new roles

Ernie U. Sarmiento

Multi-faceted: Not being just a comedienne is a relief

THE WEIGHT loss is evident, and Marissa Sanchez, the performer who first made her name as a belter with a comedic streak, proudly shows off a picture of her more svelte self after winning a badminton tournament. For a "Biggest Losers" segment on the TV show "Us Girls," Marissa played almost daily games of badminton to drop seven kilos. She's also cut down from almost three cups to one cup of rice per meal. "When I was growing up, my elders always told me to hurry up and eat faster," says the 35-year-old Isabela native. "So I ended up eating more! Now I learned that, with exercise, you actually control your appetite."

It's a healthier road Marissa intends to stay on, especially now that she's also been diagnosed with diabetes. Isn't she worried, though, that people will miss her plump persona? "I'm not that famous, really," she admits candidly, speaking in Filipino. "I'd rather go for longevity than stardom. I want to be one of those people who are constantly there, but who never run out of work."

While other comedians milk their hang-ups for all they're worth, Marissa has always been more serious offstage, and claims she still gets "intimidated" by performing for crowds because of her "humble and dysfunctional beginnings." Despite the messy family life—"I'm the youngest kid on my dad's side, and the eldest on my mom's"—Marissa's mother made her daughter study ballet and trained her to sing, which is why dancing remains the girl's first love. After an erratic school life, she was soon auditioning for singing jobs in Quezon City night spots. "*Ka*-alternate *ko yung mga naghuhubad* (I was alternating with the strippers)," she says with a laugh.

The powerful voice wasn't enough at first, however. Fellow performer Robert M. warned her that she simply wouldn't click if she was hefty. "That's why audiences seemed to be *dedma* even if I sang songs by Whitney or Mariah," says Marissa. "So I started injecting jokes into my routine." It was and still is a struggle, Marissa admits; "*Parang* I always have a crisis whenever I have a show." Turn the spotlight on, however, and Marissa is transformed into gregarious impersonator, pushy comic and all-around stage presence.

She got her big break in 2000 on "Cristy Per Minute," but it was on the ABS-CBN soap opera *"Mga Anghel na Walang Langit"* that Marissa proved her mettle as a dramatic actress, earning herself a reputation as a "multi-faceted" trouper. That's why she's finally mustered the courage to stage a solo concert at the Music Museum on January 23, "A Date with Marissa Sanchez," and to make dance her main medium. At the time of this shoot, she was undergoing therapy for torn knee ligaments from her badminton, but was raring to get into rehearsals for the big night where colleagues Reuben Laurente, Lloyd Zaragoza, Pinoy Dream Academy's Ynah Pangan, and no less than Zsa Zsa Padilla are set to lend support. Edwin Teng will do her gowns, while Mikka will provide the shoes.

Marissa has another reason to lose those pounds: She's been married since 2004 to businessman Ian Nava, and the couple wants at least one child. "That's definitely on our schedule." Here's hoping we can add "Mom" soon to Marissa's many titles. •

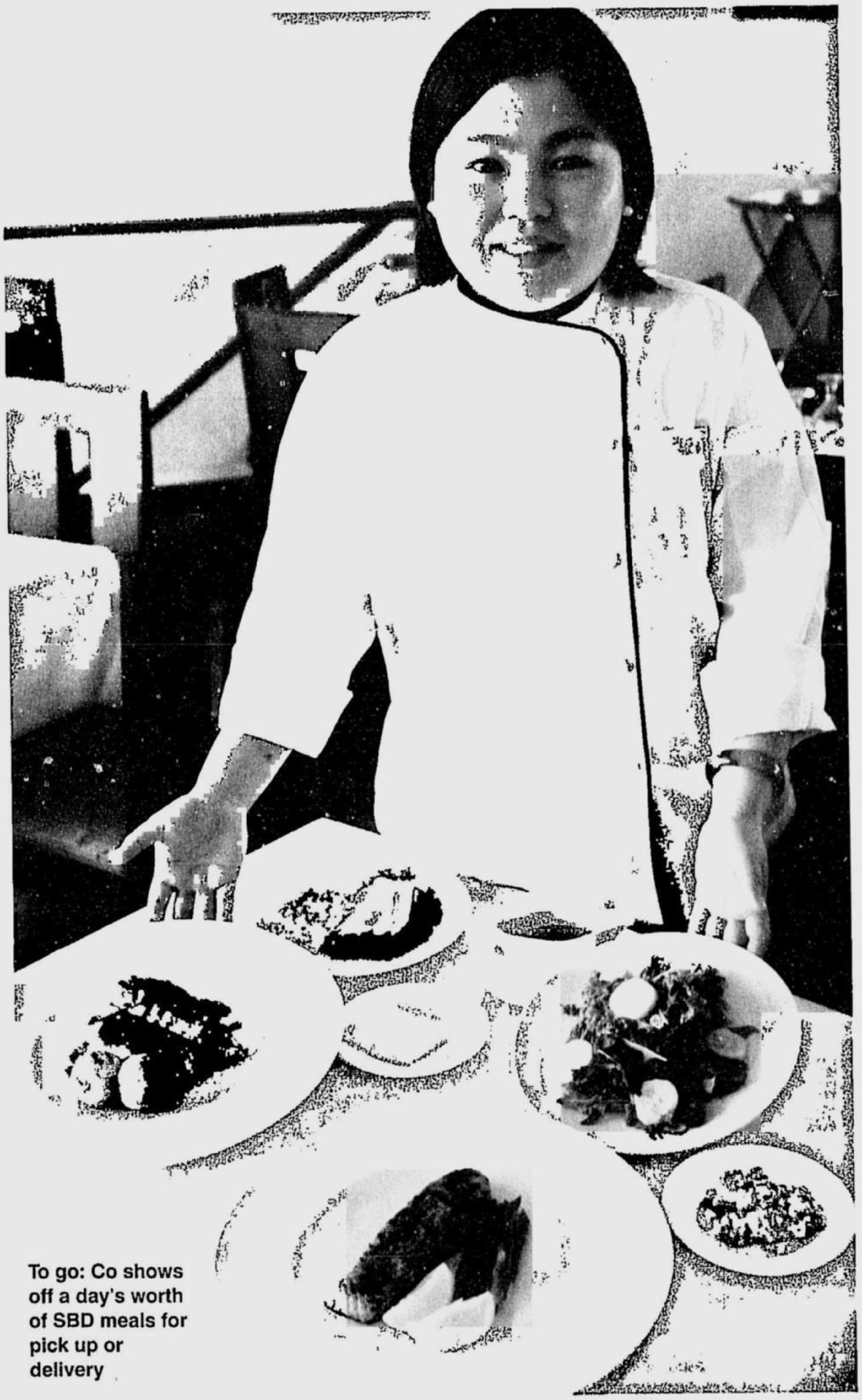
Tickets available at National Book Store and Ticketworld outlets; call 891-9999.

Playing badminton—and winning!—helped Marissa drop the kilos

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photographs by Romy Homillada

Is the South Beach Diet Dead?

True, the buzz about SBD has died down, says restaurateur Florabel Co, a pioneer of this healthy carbs diet. But only because the initial excitement has settled into cozy chatter, proof that people have made it a part of their lifestyle



To go: Co shows off a day's worth of SBD meals for pick up or delivery

NO, she's not on the South Beach Diet, confesses Florabel Co, with several helpings of regret. But she tried it before and lost some weight, says this young chef who owns Florabel, a fine dining restaurant at the Podium, and co-owns Sumo Sam at Rockwell and Shangrila Mall, Café Ten Titas at the Araneta Center, and Floring's Barbecue in Cubao. But it was precisely because of her success in the food business that she had to give up SBD, Co, 33, reveals. "As a chef, I have to keep tasting different flavors and trying out different foods so I can develop other dishes. *Nasisira tuloy yung* diet ko. I cannot just stick to what's recommended under SBD."

Co first came across this healthy carbs routine three years ago and promptly tried out the recipes from an SBD cookbook that she had asked actor, friend and business partner Marvin Agustin, to bring home the next time he was abroad. Far from being a fad diet, SBD involves a change of lifestyle, a conscious decision to go for healthier alternatives instead of giving up some foods outright, she says.

"That's why SBD works; it's not about deprivation, but about choices. Brown rice instead of white because it's the healthier carbo. A balanced meal full of fruits and vegetables instead of eating just one food group. Lots of fresh ingredients while eliminating processed food. And it doesn't have to be boring because of all the choices available."

Thanks to Co and a few other food entrepreneurs, it doesn't even have to be home-made. SBD meals can be delivered or picked up at several designated spots at reasonable rates. "We offer three main dishes and two snacks for P1,000, which people can

(continued on page 10)

Salmon is served: "I want dieters to tell themselves, 'I am enjoying this.'"

pick up every morning and take home in this complimentary insulated thermo bag so the food remains hot," she says, showing off a black squarish bag trimmed with red. Today's menu includes a breakfast of scrambled eggs dotted with herbs and several slices of Canadian bacon. Lunch is two portions of boneless grilled chicken and a hearty serving of greens with vinaigrette sauce. For dinner, there's a grilled inch-thick strip of salmon encrusted with herbs. Snacks are a handful of salt-free walnuts and a few slices of low-fat cheese. How can such gourmet offerings at hefty portions qualify as diet food?

That's precisely her goal, says Co, to make dieting a pleasurable experience. "It's a matter of attitude. I want dieters to tell themselves, `I am enjoying this.' So I use strong-flavored herbs because it is only by satisfying a person's palate that you stop the craving. To avoid boredom, I vary the menu and try to make the meals exciting, using different ingredients and cooking methods. I even give my clients a list of food that they can order should they decide to dine out." At Florabel's, she adds, diners can also ask for the SBD version of what's on the menu.

Little wonder then that Co has become the favorite chef of such celebrities as Richard Gomez and Aga Muhlach, and counts among her other regular clients prominent personalities such as Vicki Belo, Kris Aquino, Sen. Franklin Drilon, Ben Chan, Korina Sanchez, Tessa Prieto Valdes, Tim Yap, and Linda Lagdameo. "I make it a point to remember what food my clients really like," she says of the popularity of her in-house catering.

If Co sounds like she's a real crowd-pleaser, that's because she had an early start. This eldest of three siblings born to businessman Felix Co and his wife Beverly has been selling foodstuff since she was in high school at the Immaculate Concepcion Academy in San Juan. "I was baking and selling cookies, chocolate crinkles, tarts and cakes to my classmates," she recalls. Not surprisingly, she followed this up with a Hotel & Restaurant Management degree at UST where she again brought home the bacon at various cooking contests. After a practicum at Via Mare and Le Soufflé, she found herself, at 24, already a rising star at Le Soufflé.

"I was very fortunate with the breaks given me by Jessie Sincioco of Le Soufflé, but a lot of my other skills were largely self-taught," says Co. Conscious that she has no degree from a culinary school abroad, she took it upon herself to travel and taste different foods, and to collect cookbooks where she did extensive food research.

Despite perceptions of glamor, being a good chef entails a lot of dedication and hard work, "10- to 16-hour workdays exposed to the heat in the kitchen," says Co. "The holidays are especially hectic so I don't eat on time, I don't get to spend the holidays on time, I don't even get to cook at home," she says. There's hardly enough time to indulge in her favorite Filipino comfort foods which, she believes, "are some of the best dishes in the world because they're hearty and flavorful." What we need to get global attention, she adds, is "the right presentation."

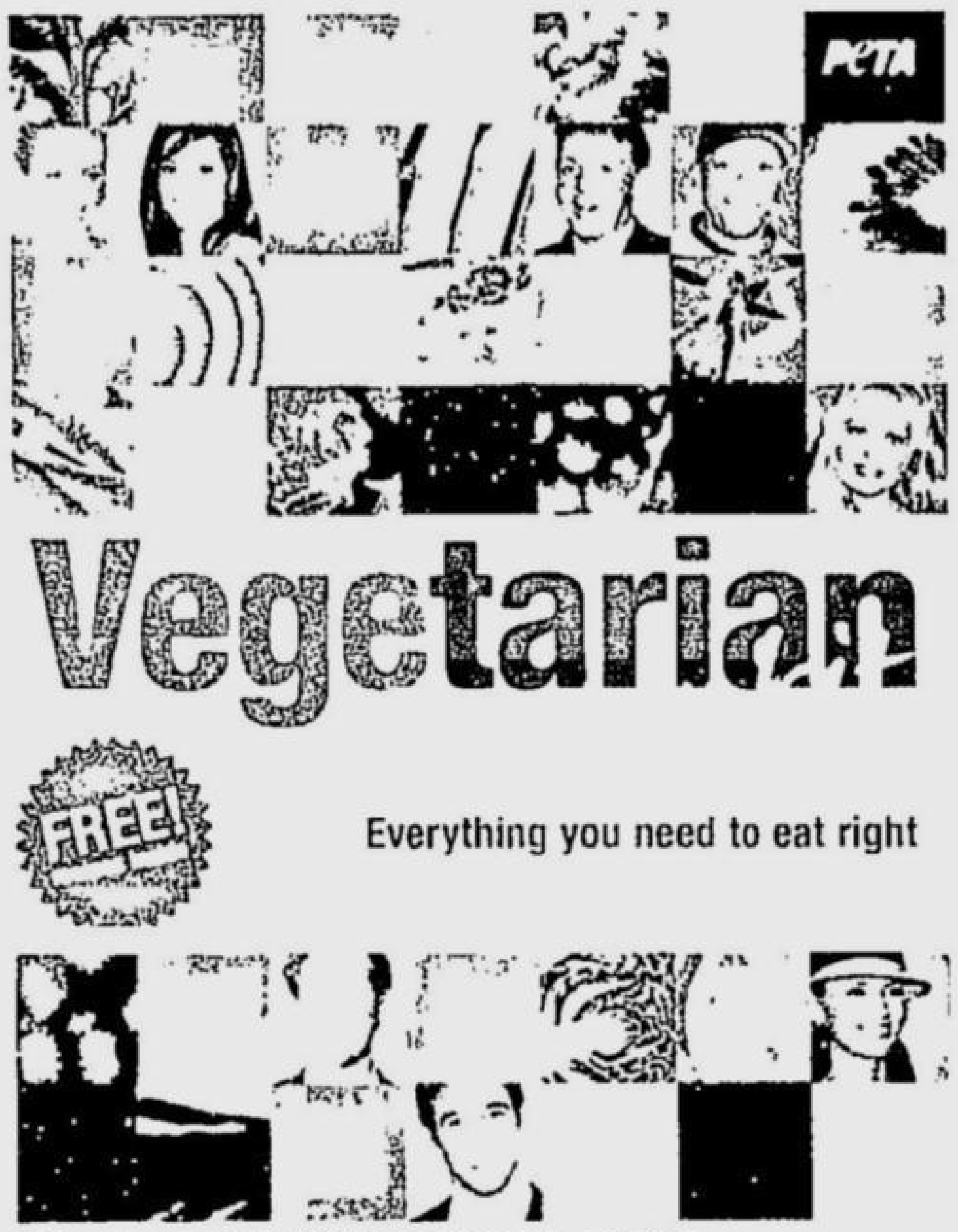
This year should see "a return to the more basic and classic dishes like *bistek tagalog, nilaga, sinigang, kare-kare*," Co predicts. "The next food fad is real food—Japanese, Chinese and Filipino food that we're all familiar with. At the same time, people will keep healthy eating in mind. They know that to live well is to eat well." •

For inquiries on Florabel Co's SBD meals, please call 667-3220, 638-7527, 0917-8117334, 0917-78577622.

By Alya B. Honasan

Confessions of an Aspiring Vegetarian

I no longer eat my mother's unrivaled 'callos,' but I don't have the willpower to give up fish just yet- –so I've got a very long way to go



Way to go? PETA's ultimate guide

IT'S A picture that's stuck in my head forever. In September 2005, I was in a spa having a relaxed detox weekend, and the spa manager suggested that I watch a video that made a pitch for turning vegetarian. It was "A Diet for A New America" and was about John Robbins, heir to the American ice cream empire, and how he turned his back on his corporate birthright and decided to turn vegan, living off the earth in a log cabin in Vancouver.

I'd heard about hard-core, graphic pitches against eating slaughtered animals before, but it wasn't the blood and gore that got me. There was a scene showing a sow frolicking with her babies in the meadow—and then later, getting separated from them and being readied for slaughter. Animals have feelings, the voice-over said, and they love their young as much as we do. There was Mama Pig reaching out, as in *really* reaching out for her piglets through the wire fence, in obvious panic and desperation. Call me a sucker for drama, but that hit me in a way I never expected. I haven't eaten pork and beef since.

That was also the time I had become really committed to yoga, and although the style I practice makes no demands on one's eating habits, my friend and teacher Rina warned me. "You'll change," she said. "And it will be your own decision."

Several years ago, I had tried skipping meat for six months, simply to lose weight. I did, but eventually gained it back, none the wiser. Before the spa weekend, I again toyed with the idea of changing my diet, but this time, although I'm still overweight, it wasn't really the pounds that worried me; it was the violence. I was becoming more and more freaked out at the idea that another animal had to die—in a very ugly way—to feed me. And it's not like I was some prehistoric hunter whose life depended on it, at a time when the playing field was fair. It was the fact that, every time I simply craved for a burger, I was chewing on what was once a living thing whose throat got slit because I was, uh, *wala lang*—in the mood for it. But more on that later.

Vegetarianism (no animals) and its more stringent version, veganism (that's no animals or animal products like eggs and dairy) are no longer just a fad. "People are more aware of healthier alternatives," says Wally Duran, who, along with wife Mary Ann, runs the five-year-old vegetarian restaurant Greens in Quezon City. Mary Ann calls their tack "transitional vegetarianism"—that is, if you're still craving for the meat, they offer gluten substitutes for that barbecue or *kare-kare*. Wally, a self-confessed former hippie, turned vegetarian in the '70s, and has influenced his family; Mary Ann followed suit in 1986. Now, Wally says, when he sees animal carcasses in the market, "I get a really weird feeling."

Vegetarianism makes sense in the Philippines, he says, where we have more plants than livestock, and life in the countryside means lots of veggies. "We use so much grain, land and water for livestock," he says. Both Wally and Mary Ann have also seen close relatives die from diseases possibly related to bad eating habits—including an excess of animal fat. "And here is a compassionate lifestyle that has been proven to be so much better for your health," Wally says.

The health benefits have been confirmed, agrees nutritionist Luchie Callanta, a senior lecturer at the University of the Philippines College of Home Economics and the Center for Culinary Arts. "Vegans are among the healthiest people around because they don't get any of the animal fat." She thinks vegetarianism is a good idea, "as long as you know what you're doing and where to get your protein." While she admits that meat is a more direct source of some essential amino acids and protein, and that some nutrients you get from plant products may still need to be converted in the body, this can be resolved when you know how to "mix and match," Callanta says. "Remember to get your grains, nuts, and legumes in particular, which are great sources of protein."

She offers a surprising caveat for non-meat eaters: "I actually know a lot of obese vegetarians, because they tend to go overboard on the sweets and the carbs. Some restaurants offering gluten also compensate for the lack of taste with too much sodium and seasoning like MSG, so just be aware of that. But if you know how to cook, you won't have to give up the flavor."

Callanta doesn't see most Pinoys going for total vegetarianism, but instead sees people changing their diets because of health considerations. "It's not that they're giving up meat; they're just eating more vegetables and fish, which is great."

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	4	2	8					
	3			1				
	5		9					
6			3					
	1	8				7	2	
					5			3
					6		4	
				5			3	
					7	6	1	

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1 21

Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	8	5	7	3	4	1	9
1	4	3	8	9	2	7	6	5
7	5	9	1	6	4	8	3	2
4	8	2	7	3	5	6	9	1
3	9	7	6	1	8	2	5	4
5	1	6	2	4	9	3	7	8
6	2	5	9	8	7	1	4	3
8	7	4	3	5	1	9	2	6
9	3	1	4	2	6	5	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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sim@inquirer.com.ph

Publisher: Leica R. Carpo
Editor in Chief: Alya B. Honasan
Managing Editor: Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho
Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
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Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus
Marketing Officer: Chito San Mateo

Cover: Marissa Sanchez
Photograph: Ernie U. Sarmiento
Makeup: Argie Lingat of The Body Shop
Hairstyle: Nick Diaz
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Food Styling: Joey Carpo
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Confessions of an Aspiring Vegetarian (from page 11)

Roger Carpio

Eat this: Mary Ann and Wally Duran show off the fare at Greens

But even fish is a no-no for vegans, as well as activists like the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), who give away a vegetarian "starter kit," a magazine that's a combination of scary science and an appeal to your humane side. After all, this is a group that has been known for in-your-face protests; remember how they threw a dead animal on Vogue editor Anna Wintour's plate after she started using real fur again in fashion shoots? Although many may balk from what is perceived as excessive zeal, the approach has produced results. "If slaughterhouses had glass walls," declares PETA Asia-Pacific Director Jason Baker, "we'd all be vegetarians."

PETA also distributes a CD on reasons to go vegetarian, which covers the same range of reasons, from horror trivia on animal fat, parasites and fecal matter that stay in carcasses and get eaten, to the fact that animals actually feel fear and pain. Another compelling one: "Because nobody has to have to kill to make a living," juxtaposed with images of men covered in blood, oblivious to the squeals of dying animals. And sorry for the myopia, but one that really got me, too: "Because you wouldn't eat your dog." After seeing the video, I've decided to give up chicken, as well.

"Our bottom line is ethics, and the ethical treatment of animals," says Baker, himself a long-time vegan. "In an ideal world, we would all be vegans, and no animals would have to be kept in cages or killed. It just so happens that what's ethical here is also what's better for your health and better for the environment." We are the only creatures who think we have to drink another animal's milk to live, Baker argues. That's weird, he says, and that's why so many Filipinos are actually lactose-intolerant.

Which brings this essay back to me, and how I've gotten over no longer eating my mother's unrivaled *callos*, and how I cry (seriously) when I'm stuck in traffic behind a truck of clueless pigs bound for their inevitable doom. I aspire for the day when I can stop eating fish, but I don't have the willpower to do that just yet, because it's my favorite food. Until then, I can't call myself a vegetarian.

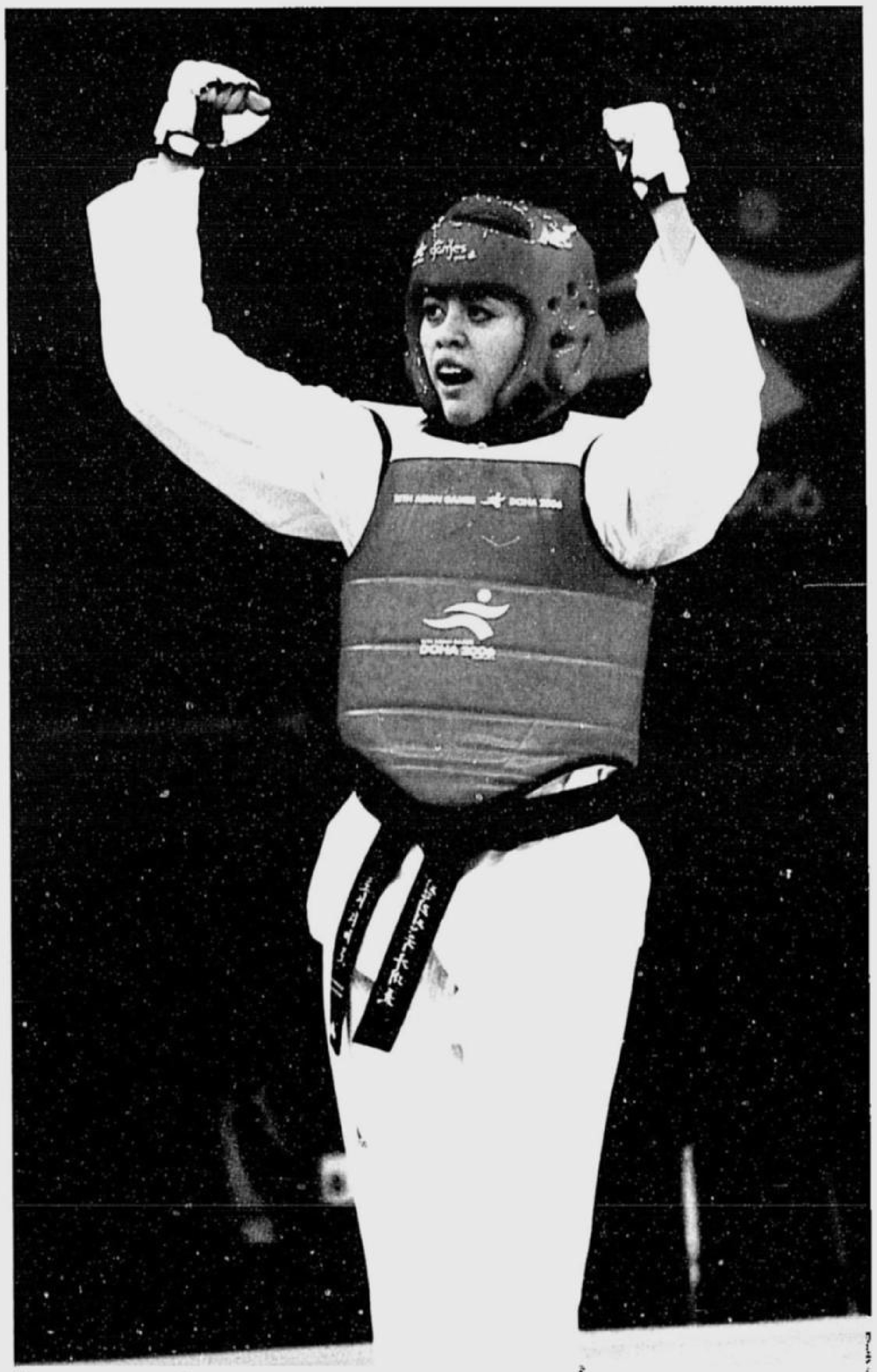
But this is just me, folks. I still live in a world where my family and best friends dig into prime rib in front of me, but love me enough to prepare a bowl of salad or pasta on the side. I am glad they don't judge me, as I don't judge them. I don't slap people because I inadvertently swallowed a piece of pork that wasn't supposed to be in my soup. This is my choice, and we do our best wherever we are on this earth. In my corner, I have a beloved 70-lb. dog who is so much more than just an animal to me, and the idea of anybody eating her just makes me see red. As a human being, I pray that someday I will have the fortitude to finally stop doing harm to all creatures like her. •

For information on PETA and their Vegetarian Starter Kit, call 817-5292 or 818-3668. Greens Restaurant is at 92 Scout Castor, Quezon City, tel. no. 415-4796.

By Jasmine W. Payo

Breakfast of Champions

Eating the right food before, during and after competition is essential to reaping those medals. Take it from these national players and their nutritionist



Taekwondo winner Toni Rivero loses her appetite during competition

WUSHU champion Rene Catalan sheepishly reveals a winning secret.

"I have to have Coke, but just two solo bottles a day," confesses Catalan, a gold medalist in the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

"From the start, everyone was talking about winning a gold in wushu in Doha. The pressure was there. On the day of the competition, *wala akong gana* (I had no appetite). But I had to eat, and I still had Coke," he says.

It's a revelation hardly expected from an elite athlete like Catalan. But in truth, an athlete's diet may be as peculiar as a game is unpredictable.

"Some athletes have psychological food attachments," explains clinical and sports nutritionist Sanirose S. Orbeta, M.S., R.D., FADA. Some don't eat *adobong pusit* or *dinuguan* because the color is unlucky. I want to tell them that there's no connection, but we adjust. We're here for them. We understand."

And there are more bizarre stories from Orbeta, one of the pioneers of the Philippine Center of Sports Medicine.

"There was one athlete for whom we had to look for a certain type of fish, because that's his winning fish. And it had to be 11 inches. We have those kinds of idiosyncrasies. I laugh all the time, but I don't say anything if that's what they got used to, and as long as it's still part of the proper diet," she says.

For Catalan, it's not that he's so gifted that he decided to throw the food pyramid out of the window.

"I was also given a program by a sports nutritionist," the pint-size Catalan notes. "But I'm using it more as a guide. I get some ideas from it. I still make sure I have a balanced meal. I'm eating more protein for strength. I drink water regularly. I know my body, I know my condition."

Indeed, sports nutrition isn't just about measuring cups and palm-size servings.

"I'm one of those people who don't eat a lot during the game," admits taekwondo teen sensation Mary Antoinette "Toni" Rivero.

"I feel like throwing up because of nervousness. And during the game, usually I don't feel hungry because I'm thinking about the game, my opponent, what I should do. Hunger is the last

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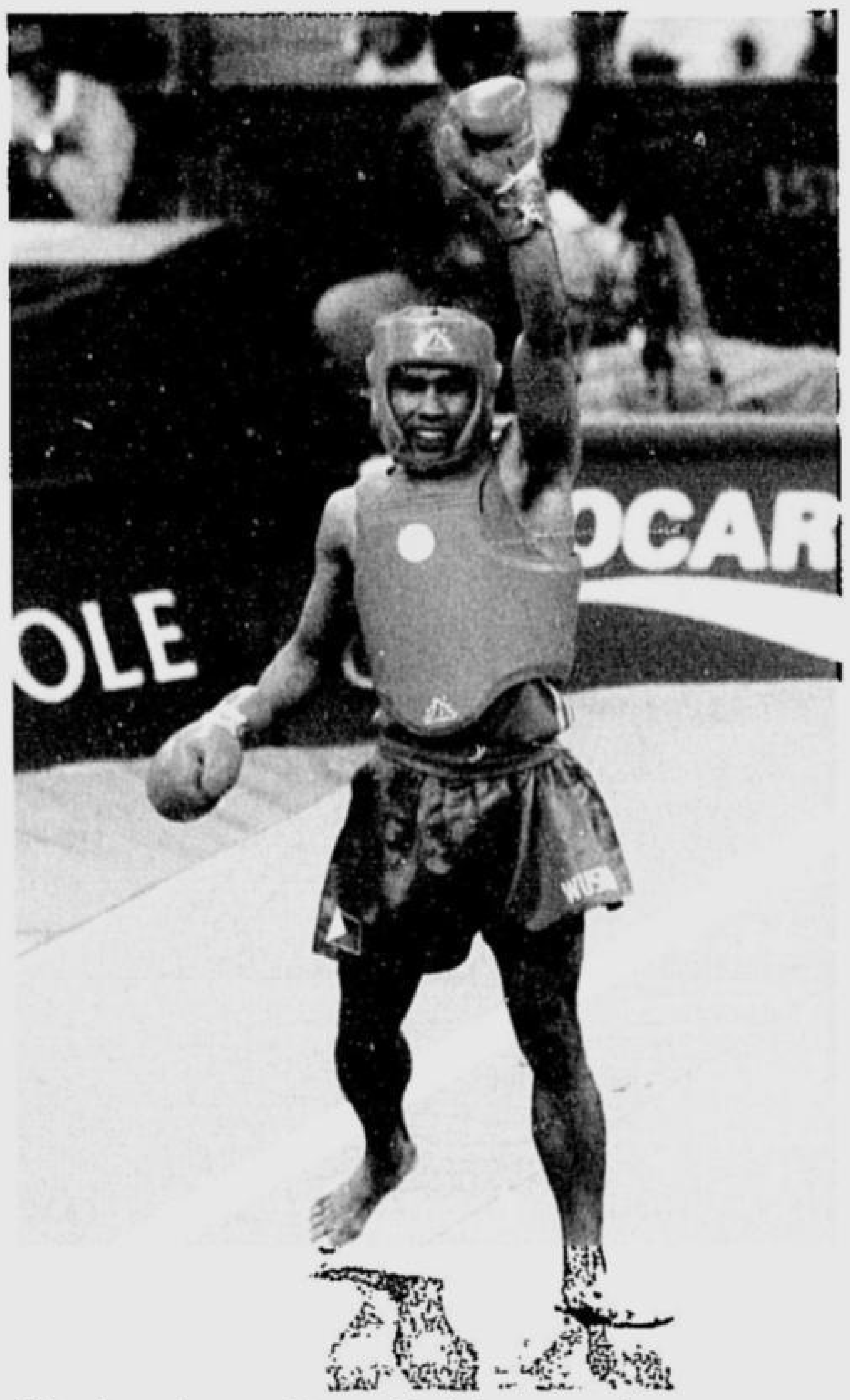


Wushu champ Rene Catalan needs his Coca-Cola

thing on my mind."

During the Asian Games where she bagged a silver, Rivero shares how she got by.

"In the morning I tried to eat something, just so I won't be hungry. I had fruits and salad. During the competition, I only ate one energy bar, I was just taking bites after every game. That night, that's when I really ate," she recalls.

As much as athletes personally tweak their food intake, Orbeta explains that an athlete's nutrition program is mainly divided into three—the training day diet, the competition day meal and the post-game diet or recovery meal plan.

"The biggest fault of some athletes is, they're so tired, they don't even eat anything after the game, they go to bed immediately. But they have to reload, to replenish the fuel that has been lost during the competition," she says.

According to Orbeta, an athletes' meal typically has 65 to 70 percent carbohydrates, 20 percent protein and 25 percent fat.

Rivero is among the athletes who has taken the food ratio to heart.
"After our weigh-in for a competition, we do carbo loading by eating pasta and rice so we have more energy during the tournament," she says.

Rivero shares her food diary: "We practice early in the morning, and I usually have a banana and a bottle of Gatorade. We need something to burn, so it's hard for the body if you don't eat anything. For breakfast, it's cornflakes and fruits.

"For lunch and dinner I have meat and vegetables. I usually eat a lot of tofu, eggplants and tomato. That's the food which I think make me feel strong. I still have healthy snacks, like a granola bar and fruit juices."

Athletes like Rivero are a nutritionist's dream.

"Sports nutrition now is so specific, so scientific," notes Orbeta. "It's so well-thought about by the sports sciences that athletes who do not follow the rules of good nutrition are really at a marked disadvantage."

National gymnast Roel Ramirez, a double gold medalist in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, knows this only too well.

"No chocolates and no ice cream during competition, it was a lesson for me," he says. "When I was younger, I ate cakes and chocolates in a hotel. During the competition, my muscles felt cramped, I felt heavy. In my mind I knew I could do it. I'd done it many times in practice. I wanted to move, but I felt limited."

But temptation is just one of several concerns of government-supported athletes.

"A P3,000 food allowance isn't enough for one month if you want to eat proper food," Ramirez points out. "It's possible, but you have to budget. Personally, I spend my own money. You get to spend about P5,000 to P6,000."

Orbeta concurs: "I'd like to give them more fruits, more ample supply of recovery foods, but we're constrained because of lack of budget. Compared to China or Japan, we're very, very far. But we have the know how. We have our sports sciences in place. But commissioner Butch (Ramirez) is on top of the situation, he understands the problem and we're really trying to fix it in our budget."

Rivero, though, assures that the situation isn't entirely bleak.

"I think we're keeping up," she says. "We're catching up in terms of performance. At least in taekwondo, we're not behind." •

Nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta is used to the eating idiosyncrasies of athletes

real food
NINA PLANCK

Getting Real About Food

What's good and bad for you has always been relative, with a few strident voices setting down intractable rules: red meat bad, veggies good, etc.

This time, another voice pipes up, saying things that might surprise you.

"Real Food: What To Eat and Why" by Nina Planck (Bloomsbury, P1,145 at National Book Store) is an entertaining and informative treatise on how we've come to believe all the wrong things.

So claims Planck, a leading advocate of farmers' markets and organic eating. Banking on her experiences as a dieter and on what science is now saying about many traditional foods, Planck weaves together a surprising tableau of food tips. In her bouncy but confident prose, the author discusses cholesterol and the different kinds of fat, while debunking many well-entrenched food myths.

"Real Food" is a tasty treat for people who want to go for the right foods by first being well-informed about it. Bon appetit!

A Brave New Moviehouse

SO how do you beat movie pirates in their own game? By making good movies available for a song at all times in a venue that's accessible to the teeming *masa*. Like in a mall. And that's exactly what IndieSine is all about.

Billed as the Home of Brave New Films, IndieSine at Robinson's Galleria at Ortigas Ave. is a theater dedicated to showing alternative movies made by local independent filmmakers. That, says Monster Jimenez, otherwise known as the producer of the award-winning indie movie "Big Time," should give film enthusiasts more choices than just regular movie fare.

Jimenez, a member of the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC), says that IndieSine will showcase the best of local indie films, starting with "*Huling Balyan ng* Buhi" (The Last Princess of Buhi), a movie directed by Sherad Sanchez. Until the 24th, IndieSine will show other award-winning movies as part of the Bagong Agos Festival. To be screened on the 22nd are "Pepot *Artista*" by Doy Del Mundo, "*Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong*" by Mes de Guzman, "In the Red Corner" by Dado Lumibao, "*Riles*" by Ditsi Corolino, and "Manoro" by Dante Mendoza. On the 23rd and 24th, movies rated X for experimental will be shown: the seven-hour opus "Heremias" by Lav Diaz and the premiere of The Shorts of Khavn Dela Cruz on the 23rd, "*Rigodon*" by Sari Lluch Dalena and Keith Sicat, "Cut" by Jon Red, "*Indio Nacional*" by Raya Martin, "Todo Todo Teros" by John Torres and "*Imahe Nasyon*" by various directors. •

Tickets at P100 for regular moviegoers and P80 for students. For inquiries, contact Ramon Bayron at 0906-2535730.

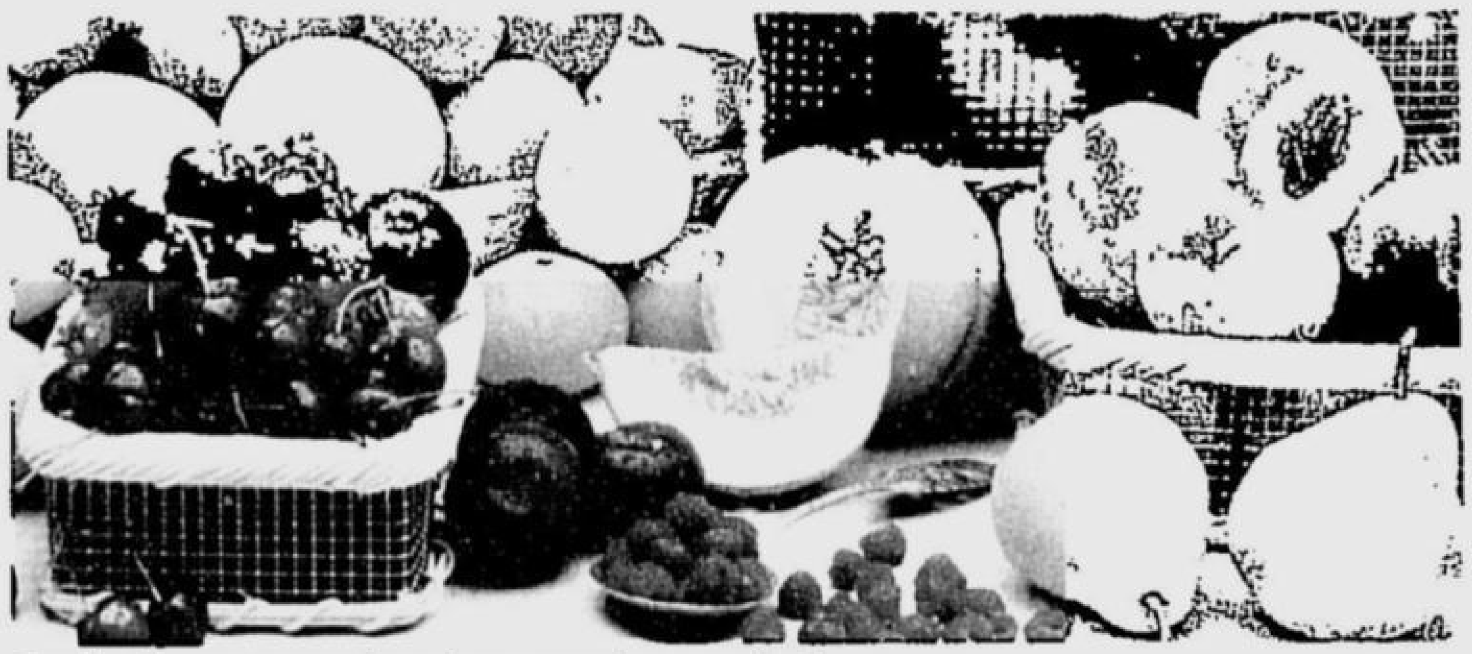
What's Eating You?

Or rather, the question should be: What are you eating? Food, not surprisingly, affects moods. Too much caffeine and you're bound to get high-strung. Easy on the sugar lest you get mood swings. Now if you're feeling really cranky, could it just be that you're hungry?

Try out the following food and eating strategies to improve your mood:

- Eat every four to five hours to provide your brain with a constant source of fuel. Prevents dramatic dips in your blood sugar levels. Those with diagnosed hypoglycemia may need to eat even more frequently, as in every two to three hours.

- Limit refined carbohydrates to help lessen volatile blood sugar swings. Concentrated sources of sugar like soda, candy, fruit juice, jam, and syrup can create radical spikes (and drops!) in your blood sugar—which leaves you feeling cranky and tired. And though refined white starch like white bread, crackers, bagels, and rice do not naturally contain sugar compounds, they are metabolized into sugar very quickly and can often create the same affect.


Fruits keep mood swings under control

- Incorporate soluble fiber. Foods rich in soluble fiber have the ability to slow down the absorption of sugar in your blood and therefore, lessen blood sugar and mood swings. These include oats, brown rice, barley, apples, pears, strawberries, oranges, sweet potatoes, carrots, peas, and beans.

- Incorporate protein with meals and snacks (whenever possible). Adding protein to a meal helps slow the absorption of carbohydrate in the blood and helps leave you feeling upbeat and productive for hours after eating.

(Source: Joy Bauer, M.S., R.D., C.D.N.)

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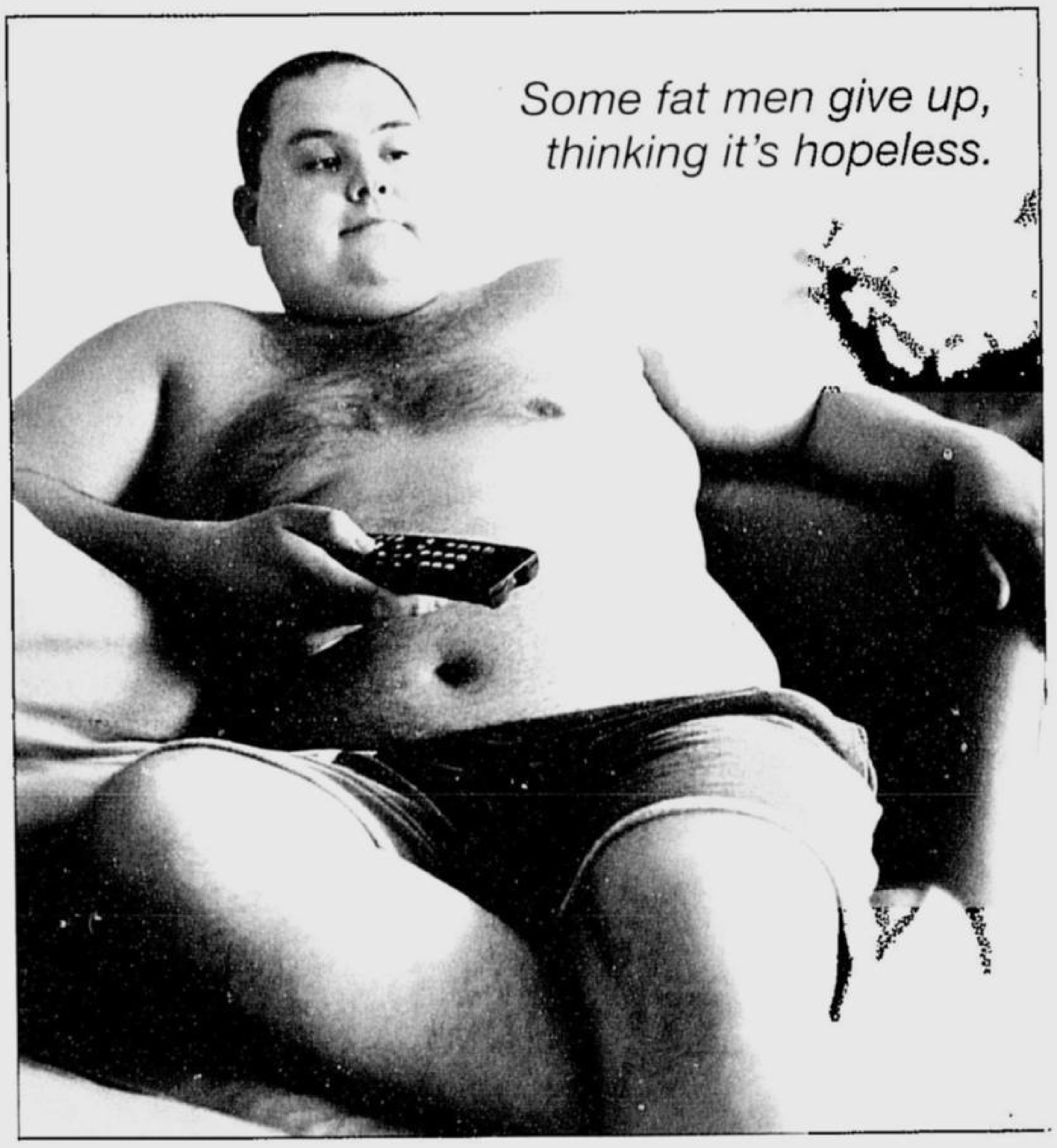
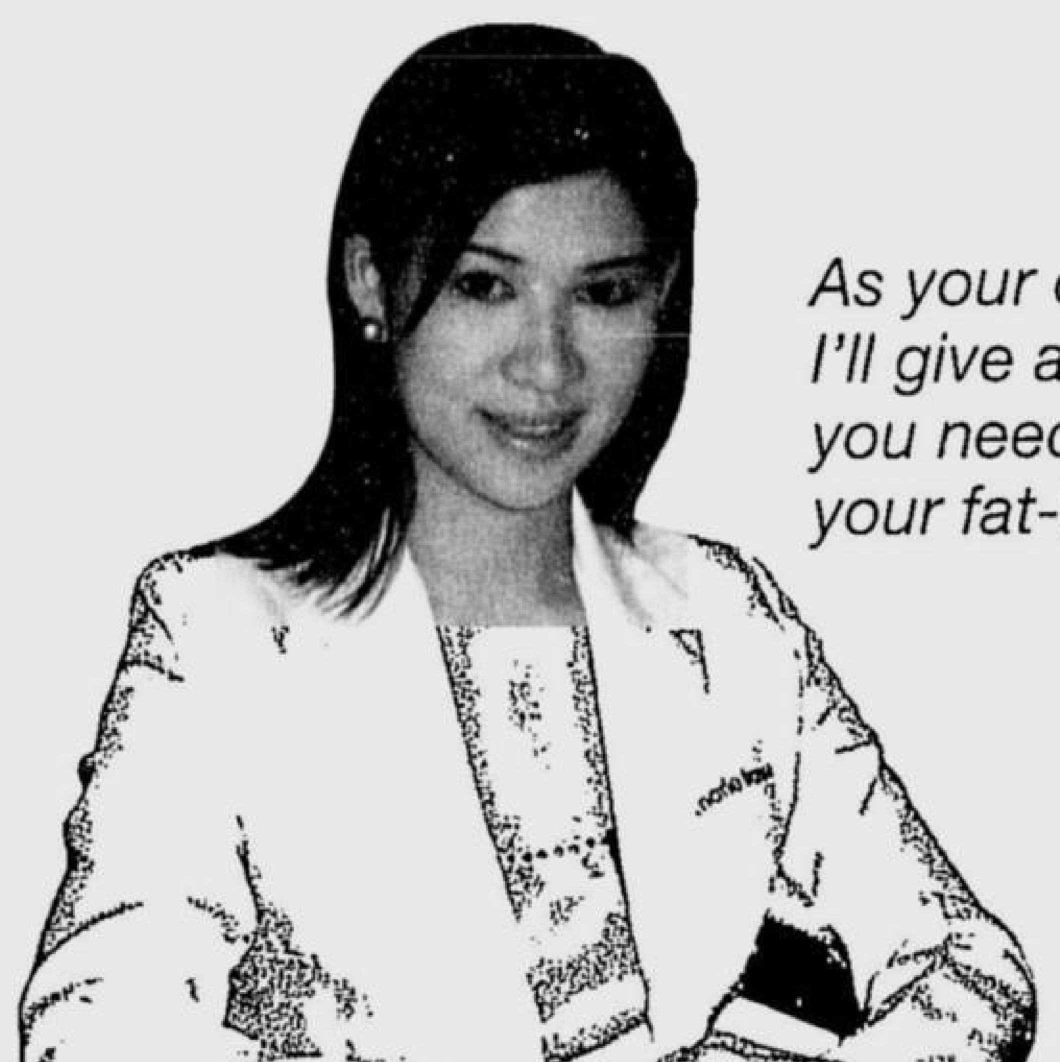


Some fat men give up, thinking it's hopeless.



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